

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:

Thank you Towns County School System. In a time where school faculty and employees get very little appreciation, I would like to take time to commend you.

A school bus loaded with children on their way home broke down in a curve on Fodder Creek this week. Coincidentally, I was returning home and witnessed the entire incident since it happened near my driveway. Immediately, I realized how dangerous this situation, with a bus full of children in the middle of a curve, could potentially become. I was amazed as I watched the Towns County Transportation Director, Scott Hamilton, arrive within 5 minutes of the bus breaking down and Turpin's Wrecker Service and local police arriving within 8 minutes.

Towns County Schools' Transportation Director Scott Hamilton should be commended for the outstanding job he did carefully securing the area, directing traffic, and positioning the new bus so the bus driver and students could safely load and be on their way. The speed and efficiency with which this incident was handled is a testament to the school system's commitment to our children's safety.

James W. Bradshaw

Letter to the Editor:

The Sheriff and the Constitution

In a recent open letter and in his appearance before the local Tea Party, the Towns County sheriff said that, "I have no duty, nor obligation, and cannot be compelled to enforce federal law," and that, "I will, as my oath requires, aggressively oppose any state or federal legislation that attempts to take away any of the natural rights guaranteed under the Constitution..."

Selective enforcement of the law can be dangerous to those who depend upon the law for their protection. During the long struggle to achieve equal rights in this country, many sheriffs routinely ignored federal civil rights laws; some officers interfered with efforts by federal agents to enforce those laws, and some even conspired to aid and abetted, and even committed murder on persons whom the federal laws were intended to protect, persons seeking only their natural rights.

The sheriff is expected to assist when asked to do so by Homeland Security, the FBI, CIA, INS, BAFTA, IRS, DNR or any other federal agency pursuant to the enforcement of federal law. Were he to fail to do so, he would be derelict in his duties.

The United States Constitution was, throughout much of its history, antithetical to the natural rights of most Americans, disfranchising women, native Americans, and African Americans and denying citizenship to the latter two groups. The Constitution provided for the continued enslavement of many Americans, continued the African slave trade for twenty more years, made it a crime to assist slaves in escaping, and required their forcible return (an enterprise in which southern sheriffs participated), robbing those returned to slavery of those "unalienable rights" of "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness," and endowed upon them "by their Creator," proclaimed by the Declaration of Independence.

The sheriff has said publicly on various occasions that the United States is not a democracy. In fact, sheriff, despite the wishes of the rich white men who drafted the Constitution, we are today a democracy and a republic, a "res publica," a public thing. After much struggle and bloodshed, fundamental rights denied by the Constitution were finally bestowed. Amendments to the Constitution extended the franchise and citizenship to those groups previously denied those rights, and impediments to democracy removed, except for the vestigial electoral college. The promise of the Declaration of Independence, a government that derives its just powers from the "consent of the governed," was realized. (Mississippi ratified the 13th Amendment in February 2013.)

As to the Second Amendment to the Constitution, no new federal legislation has been passed or executive action taken. Were such to occur, its constitutionality would be determined by the United States Supreme Court, not by county sheriffs.

Louis Pease

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

"Manipulation" is a versatile word with a wide range of uses. If we manipulate the controls of a powerful machine or a delicate electronic device, we are generally happy with the results. If, on the other hand, we detect that we, ourselves, are being manipulated, we are not so pleased. Imagine what it might feel like to discover that we have been manipulated since birth; that our parents, even our grandparents, were manipulated also. How would we react to the knowledge that everything we consider "normal" about our culture, our way of life, even the personal goals we have within that framework, have been influenced, directed, designed by someone else?

Suggestions of manipulation on such a wide scale are often stamped with the "conspiracy" label and relegated to the discount book rack to gather dust with dead presidents and alien abductors. The conspiracy we are discussing today, however, is a real one, hidden in plain sight since the end of WWI.

Prior to the "War to End All Wars," advertisers appealed to the practical instincts of their customers. Goods and services were designed to fulfill the needs of people who saved money to purchase them. In the industrial boom of post-war America, corporations were worried that people would stop buying things once their needs were met. For the corporations, this was an unacceptable situation.

Paul Mazur, a banker with Lehman Brothers, had a vision for the future of the nation. He wrote, "We must shift America from a needs, to a desires culture. People must be trained to desire, to want new things even before the old had been entirely consumed. We must shape a new mentality in America. Man's desires must overshadow his needs."

It was Edmund Bernays, the nephew of Sigmund Freud, who showed corporations how to design advertising that linked consumer goods to our subconscious desires. Bernays was the first to show car companies how to link their products to male sexuality. He helped tobacco companies sell cigarettes to women with his "torches of freedom" campaign which linked smoking cigarettes to challenging male authority. Bernays pioneered product placement and celebrity endorsement in advertising.

By 1927 one journalist wrote, "A change has come over our democracy. It is called 'Consumptionism.' The American citizen's first importance to its country is no longer that of citizen but that of consumer." The age of the consumer was born.

Politicians are never more than a handshake away from the corporations which "guide" them. Herbert Hoover was one of the first to embrace the new America. In 1928 he said to business leaders, "You have taken over the job of creating desire and have transformed people into constantly

moving happiness machines. Machines which have become the key to economic progress."

Fast forward to today. Consumerism is ubiquitous. It is inseparable from our national identity. As Dick Cheney once said, "The American way of life is not negotiable." We will fight, and we have fought, to defend it. We fight terrorism with shopping, but the real battle is to keep the cash register ringing. The economy of the entire western world depends upon it. When we fail to shop, the economic house of cards begins to fall. When we save money rather than spending it, the danger is so great that the government must devise methods to punish us for saving. (We will save our discussion of the Federal Reserve for another time.)

For now, let me issue this challenge. If you are home reading this, look around the room and make a mental note of all the things around you. (There is a roof over my head. There is a shelf full of books. There is an entertainment center with a host of blinking lights that requires four different remotes to operate. There are attractive, poofy things on the sofa and lamps acquired over years of long journeying into the land of antiques.) Separate, if you can, the items that you bought because you needed them - from those purchased because of want. Be honest.

As you consider some of these items (Is the recliner really a "need" when I could be sitting on a bucket?) listen to your internal dialogue defending the contents of your room. Did you hear anything like, "There is nothing wrong with being comfortable," or "One of the great things about living in this country is the ability of everyone to obtain the good things in life?" If you heard anything like that, you have just touched upon one of the central issues of our time. There is certainly nothing wrong with comfort, or with anything that brings us pleasure without harming another, but there are consequences for a planet populated by billions of consumers.

Keep in mind that everything we consider as "normal," the attic full of leftover interests, the trip to Walmart in our SUV, the "Buy now with one click" shopping, indeed the entire infrastructure which supports us and all the government institutions we have, needed or not, were built by shopping, by consuming, by wanting. So successful has our manipulation been that when our wants exceeded our ability to pay for them, we borrowed over \$11 trillion to foot the bill. Those bills are beginning to come due. Stay tuned.



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

A camel - swallowing society

Have you ever seen anyone choking on food lodged in their throat? It is frightening, scary and causes the worst kind of panic unless you know the Heimlich maneuver and are willing to become a rescuer. As I look at American society I see a nation in danger of choking to death on camels. In my humble opinion the words of Jesus are applicable to America in 2013, when He said, "Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you pay tithe of mint and anise and cumin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy and faith: these ought you to have done, and not to leave the other undone. Ye blind guides, which strain at a gnat and swallow a camel" (Matthew 23:23-24). Personally, I believe that we have an overabundance of "blind guides" in the religious world, political world, scientific world, sports world, economic world and in the entire scope of our society. It seems that we are straining out gnats through a cloth and at the same time gulping down camels. Our society is the picture of a people who have completely lost their sense of perspective. We have leaders attempting to lead our world who are educated far beyond their intelligence. We have lost any sense of spiritual

values. We are being deceived by so-called intellectuals and liberals who would have us believe that Christians and Bible students are a bunch of ignorant hate mongers who are causing all the problems in our modern world. These perverted thinkers who condone bizarre behaviors, want to legalize life-destroying drugs, kill babies, promote sexual relationships between same sexes that destroy the family unit, scorn and mock any notion that God created all things are becoming celebrities in our day. Society swoons over these folks as being modern rescuers. Some day all of us will be judged by the God of this universe. We need some prophetic rescuers like Isaiah and Jeremiah, who at least had the fortitude to stand up to the God-haters of their day and say: "Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil, that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter" (Isaiah 5:20)! "The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means: and MY PEOPLE love to have it so: and what will you do in the end thereof (Jeremiah 5:31)? The end may be coming faster than we realize. It scares the life out of me to see someone choking on food but I will try to be a rescuer. What is more frightening than seeing someone choking on food is watching a nation choking to death on leader's lies. I want to be a rescuer by helping to be a proclaimer of truth based on God's Word. Will you be a rescuer???

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

Q: How can I get my 9-year old to pay attention to me? I have to tell him a dozen times and then raise my voice before I can get him to hear me. We have had his ears checked and there doesn't seem to be a problem there. Why does he seem to ignore me?
A: Ignoring instructions is a learned behavior. Kids discover pretty early that it gets your attention. And that it gets your goat. What they really learn to enjoy is when you threaten dire consequences and then don't follow through. They chalk each of those up as a major victory.

so suddenly he'll "hear you." What he needs to discover is that his failure to respond to your first request will produce, not a repetition of the request, but a memorable response from mom/dad. He'll wonder that you're not hounding him anymore to feed the dog, and then suddenly realize that his bike isn't available for two weeks. Surprising how a response like that sensitizes the ears of a 9-year old.

Here is a bit of dialogue you may find useful: We are a family, and in order to make a family work, we all carry part of the load. One of my duties as your mom/dad is to help you learn responsibility. One of the ways you show me that you are learning is that you follow instructions. And just as you have duties in a family, you also have privileges. But when the duties don't get done, the privileges don't get passed around, either. So, I know you wanted to go over to Butch's tonight and use his Wii, but you'll have to skip that this week. That's kind of a bummer, I know, but it'll help you remember.

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

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, Hiawassee, 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.

Community Calendar

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 4 PM at VFW Post 7807, Sunnyside Rd., Hiawassee. 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 Hiawassee at 2 p.m.
Towns County Democratic Party meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 5 PM at the Senior Center. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.
Towns County Republican Party meets at 6:30 PM the 2nd Thursday of each month at Daniels Steak House. For more info call 706-379-1371.
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 Hiawassee 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.
Stephens 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 Hiawassee at 5:30 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiawassee, 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, Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m., meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Call us by 706-896-0932 or mtrregartsandcraftsguild.org
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 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.
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.
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. Caregivers or family members are encouraged to attend. 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.shootingcreekbasketweavers.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 Hiawassee. We eat at 11 and meeting begins at 12.
Narcotics Anonymous (NA) meets every Wednesday evenings at 7 PM at the Red Cross building (up the hill from the chamber office on Jack Dayton Circle).
Caregiver support group meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m. at Brasstown Manor, located at 108 Church St., Hiawassee. Call 706-896-4285 for more info.
Enchanted Valley Square Dance Club. Dances 2nd & 4th Fridays at Hiawassee Senior Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch. Call 706-379-2191.

Towns County Herald
Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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