

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

To the citizens of the City of Young Harris & Towns County residents who purchase water from the City of Young Harris:

Goodwill discount has come back to bite the citizens and county residents of Young Harris, Georgia! A 20+ year old contract with a college of 350 original students has swallowed up and continue to eat away our voices!

Only seven (7) concerned citizens and county residents attended the February 25, 2014, 6:15 p.m. meeting at Young Harris City Hall regarding the increase in Water Rates.

Three (3) City Council members are on the board that also represents the college. This seems to be, in my opinion, a conflict of interest. When they vote are they voting for the welfare of the City or for the welfare of the college? One example being: A college representative offered a \$7 compromise during discussions, then, a city council board member lowered it to \$6.50. Was he helping the city or the college?

I am not a voting resident of the City of Young Harris; however, I am, since 1985, a Towns County resident who uses the City's water supply.

I do urge ALL city residents, that are NOT affiliated with the college, to unite and speak up NOW before your voices are smothered to a faint whisper and your individual rights are stomped on by the power and force of a growing college bureaucracy.

The "goodwill" has finally disappeared and no longer shining!

For our \$6, the college only pays \$2, was one example made at the meeting. A potential 30% rate increase still puts us paying more than them. Who among us has had a 30% increase in our pay checks?

I am not faulting the City of Young Harris or its Mayor. She is doing a fantastic job under these conditions. I am very proud of her calm, expertise and professionalism. She needs the support, voices and your physical presence at all future city council meetings held the 1st Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m.

Sincerely,
Carolyn A. Brown



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

Q: Dr. Don, our 10-year old frustrates us to death. He begs for stuff he says he just can't live without, but when we get it for him he won't wear it or use it. Example: he was crazy for a bike so we bought him a really nice one. He rode it twice but won't ride it anymore, although he rides the neighbor boy's bike. If we sell it on eBay we'll lose money on it and when I suggest that he pay the difference from his allowance, his dad says that's being too harsh. He has a birthday coming up and has asked for a specific gift. Should we get it for him or make him do without till he begins riding his bicycle?

A: Sorry, mom, but this is not about bicycles. It's about who is in control of your family. Right now it's your 10-year old and he has figured that out. Your husband's statement that having Junior pay for some of the loss from the bike sale would be too "harsh" tells me that dad hasn't figured it out.

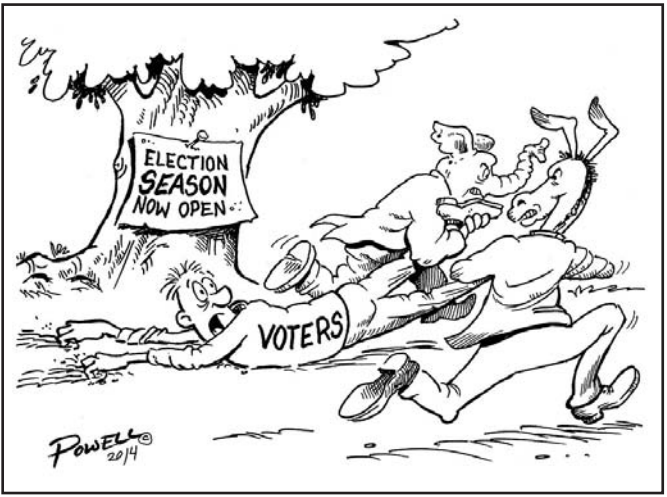
Your first assignment is to help Junior discover who's in charge. You said he doesn't want to wear his bike helmet "even after all the bicycle safety videos" you made him

watch. At 10 he doesn't need a library of videos to shape his behavior; he needs a word from his mom or dad. Not only is there a helmet law in your state but when mom or dad speak it is a law also in his home. That may come as a helpful insight to all three of you.

Your desire to keep him happy has come at a price. He is showing rude and ungrateful behavior, which is generally the reaction when kids are allowed to rule the roost. If not corrected, those two traits will haunt him all his life. He needs to be put on an austere lifestyle where his allowance is trimmed and his list of daily chores is significantly enhanced. Explain less. Be bold. You are in charge.

Take the bicycle out of the mix. Since he doesn't want to claim it, repossess it. Put it out at the curb with a sign that says, "Free bike rides, helmet included." Anyone can ride it but him. Next time he wants a bike, he should earn it. And for his birthday? How about a lollipop with a ribbon on it.

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



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The Middle Path

by Don Perry

When young men reach their teenage years they often begin to push against boundaries. It's part of growing up and discovering who we are, but it might not be the easiest time for the relationship between boys and their dads. And so it was that during the spring of my 15th year, my father was looking for some common ground with his energetic and independent teenager, some activity or hobby that we could do together. The activity he chose seemed unusual at the time, but it was something we shared for the rest of my father's life and it continues to enrich my own life to this day: He chose beekeeping.

Beekeeping is a long held tradition in my family, and even though it wasn't on the list of cool teenage activities rumored to impress girls and intimidate rivals, I found the bees fascinating and working with them strangely calming.

We ordered our first equipment from the venerable Walter Kelley Company: "bee suits" consisting of coveralls, veils and gloves, hive tools, smokers and of course brand new hives and supers ready to fill with bees and honey.

We were too late to order package bees that year, but my dad was confident that some of his beekeeping buddies would hear of a swarm. Bees begin swarming when warm weather settles in. The old queen bee leaves the hive with an entourage of newly hatched workers and they seek out a new home. Where they settle is anyone's guess and often an inconvenient or threatening location. We got a call one evening that a swarm had settled in an apple tree not far from us, so bright and early the next morning we packed up our gear and headed out to collect our bees.

There is a learning curve to beekeeping and it can be accelerated by the ever present possibility of stings which can inform future actions for a long, long time. Dad and I had no experience whatsoever in coaxing 50 thousand bees from the crook of an old apple tree into a box, but the bees were quite adept in communicating their displeasure at our fumbling attempts to smoke, brush and scrape their clinging bodies into their new home. One of our first valuable lessons was learning the limitations of protective clothing in defending against hundreds of mad bees determined to plant a sting on anything that moves.

After many attempts we somehow managed to get the majority of the bees into the hive. Swollen and triumphant, we sealed up the box and drove it to our fledgling apiary located in the back yard, and there began a long and rewarding exploration into the beauty and mystery of nature.

The cumulative intelligence, awareness and sensitivity

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, Hiawasse, 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.

of a beehive is astounding. When a veteran beekeeper stopped by to assess the viability of our new setup, he watched the hive for a while and then he listened carefully to the sound it was making. Beehives have a wide range of tones which can indicate what is going on inside. A prosperous hive beating thousands of wings in unison to evaporate nectar into honey sounds very different from a hive that is struggling, sick, or, as we had already learned, angry.

Our new hive, according to the experienced beekeeper, sounded "sad," and his opinion was that the hive had lost their queen. His opinion was verified when a careful search of the hive found no queen and no evidence of egg laying. In order to save the hive, we were going to have to introduce a new queen - and we were also going to have to feed the hive until their numbers and morale were sufficient to sustain themselves.

I will never forget the day the new queen arrived by mail and we carefully introduced her to the hive in her little protective royal cage. The entrance to a queen cage is plugged by sugar. By the time the bees eat their way through to the queen, she has taken on the smell of the hive and no longer considered an intruder. Our little hive was so eager for a queen that the moment the lid was closed and the queenly pheromone was detected, the tone of the hive went up a whole octave. They were excited, and according to our bee guru, they were "happy."

Happier still would our bees become when we established the morning feeding ritual. With an empty hive body on top, we created an internal feeding station consisting of an empty section of extruded honeycomb laid flat to accommodate a daily dose of sugar water. Each morning when the sun came up, I would put on my bee suit and hike back to the bee yard, tap lightly on the hive, open the top and pour in the homemade nectar. The first few feeding sessions were met with the same resistance we had encountered on the apple tree, but after a week the bees began to look forward to their breakfast and a veil was no longer necessary. The bees knew who I was and what I was about, and they were content to have their hive opened for a feeding. After two weeks they would often meet me halfway to the hive and excitedly buzz around my head while they escorted me to the hive.

To this day I am still amazed at the ability of our bees to recognize individuals. If either my dad or me approached the hive, with or without a gift of food, we were accepted. Anyone else was greeted with stings by the time they got within twenty feet.



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

Life is more than....

James, the half brother of Jesus, says that life is like a vapor. It is like a puff of smoke or like your breath that you can see only very briefly on a cold morning. The dictionary defines life as existence, or what people, plants and animals possess, but rocks, dirt and metals lack.

About forty years ago the back of a church bulletin listed a simple five - point definition of life. It stated that life is a journey, live it trustingly. Life is a task, live it obediently. Life is a mission, live it helpfully. Life is a contest, live it earnestly. Life is a battle, live it courageously. Those are good thoughts and suggestions about life, but we keep coming back to the question, what is life?

The Bible declares that God is the source of life and that it is through Him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28). In my journey of life, it has been my observation that some people have a very narrow and limited view of what life really is. It seems to me that a vast number of individuals never see themselves to be more than a physical being. That is, they see life only in its fleshly form. They are merely an organism that has a variety of needs such as food, water, air, sleep, and etc. They consider themselves nothing more than a physical machine. There fore, life is the process of providing all of the basic needs to keep the physical machine going. So, they spend their lives engaged in activities that maintain the life of the flesh. They work to earn money to buy food to feed the body; to shelter and clothe the body;

they eat, drink, sleep, exercise and juggle schedules to make sure the flesh life is maintained. They also understand the flesh has all kinds of cravings, desires, longings and appetites.

Again, there are vast numbers of people who feel that the purpose of life is to gratify every passion the flesh suggests. They pursue the means to satisfy every longing, craving and desire the flesh exhibits. Of course, people who live to pacify the passions of the flesh, whether it be excessive eating, drinking, sexual activity, accumulation of wealth or numerous other pursuits such as pleasure, entertainment or whatever, find themselves not living life but serving the masters of passions. Their daily existence is an endless task of finding ways, methods and means to please the ceaseless appetites of the flesh. The more you feed its passions the greedier it becomes.

Our body, flesh is certainly important. It gives a visible expression of who we are. It is nothing more than a tent or house that will someday be folded up and disappear. However, the tenant of the house will still exist, though in different form. The flesh, our tent is tarnished. It is conceived in iniquity and brought forth in sin. Therefore, the tent is temporary. It is not the permanent abode of life.

The body, flesh is God's gift. It is to be the temple where God abides so take care of it. However, remember it is just the temporary house, so don't spend all your time pampering the tent, but provide for you, the tenant that lives forever.

Yes, life is flesh, but that is only one dimension of life. What is your fleshly life? Is it in subjection to God's will and purpose or is it out of control? Jesus said, "your life is more than meat, and the body than raiment" (Matthew 6:25).



"I warned him about crowing so early on Daylight Savings Time!"

Community Calendar

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 4 PM at VFW Post 7807, Sunnyside Rd., Hiawasse. 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 Hiawasse 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 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.
Hiawasse 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 Hiawasse 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 Unity 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 p.m. 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 Hiawasse at 5:30 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiawasse, 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, Hiawasse. Refreshments at 6 p.m., meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Call us by 706-896-0932 or mtngarts-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/chapter/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 Hiawasse. 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., Hiawasse. 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), Hiawasse. For info call Al 706-896-9614 after 6 PM.