

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the TVA:

As you can clearly see by the picture attached, we continue to have issues with the illegal "Posted by TVA Jan 2014," dock adjacent to our property located at Bradshaw Road, Hiawassee, GA, on Lake Chatuge.

Now the illegal dock is breaking up & pieces of the Styrofoam drifting & landing on our property!

When is TVA going to take this situation seriously & do something about this damaging structure on beautiful Lake Chatuge!?

Please advise !?

Should I reach out to someone else at TVA? I have been patient for over five years now & nothing is being done!!

Continued to be a very concerned citizen,

Chuck Pittman



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

Q: Our 7-year old broke a window on our back porch and when we asked him about it he lied to us. It was an ugly situation and it took quite a lot of questioning before he admitted it. He paid to have the window replaced from his allowance, but we were wondering if we should include other punishment. How much of a deal should we make of it?

A: Honesty is a corner marker in our relationships. Honesty is an absolute, non-negotiable in families, at school, at work, wherever people are together. There can be no love without trust and there can be no trust without honesty. And as you know, the traits of honesty and integrity are most effectively instilled when children are young. That's a priority on every parent's to-do list.

Let me answer your specific question with a story. Years ago we were moving to a Christian university where my wife and I were going to be teaching. The school provided four students to assist with unloading the moving van. Late that afternoon \$40 disappeared off the kitchen counter. I had no idea who had taken it but it could only have been one of the four students. I thought it ought not to be ignored so I called the Dean of Students' office.

Ten minutes later the Dean was at our door.

He took the students aside and calmly told them he knew one of them had taken the money. He said he was going to his office and he was requesting that the one who had stolen the money should come there in the next thirty minutes. If not, he would investigate until he found out who it was and that student would be expelled permanently from the university.

Thirty minutes later the Dean called. One of the students had confessed to taking the money and had returned it. The student was suspended for the balance of the summer session.

I asked the Dean if he didn't think his response had been a bit heavy-handed. "Yes," he replied, "intentionally. If by the age of 18, a student doesn't understand the value of integrity then we need to do something to get his attention." The student returned in the fall and graduated four years later with an honorable record.

Some things in a youngster's life are not open to negotiation. Honesty is one of them.

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



Towns County Herald

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The Middle Path

by Don Perry

It was a brand new tiller, a Husqvarna, and not an inexpensive one, but it would not crank. After an hour of calisthenics in the hot sun, both of my arms were tired from pulling the cord. A quart of ice water had been insufficient to cool me or my temper and every goat in the valley was determined to find its way under my eyelids, but the tiller would not crank. It had cranked easily the day before and it ran like a scalded dog, but now it was dead weight being loaded onto the back of the truck for a trip to the repair shop.

"What kind of gas did you put in it?" The repairman asked me with a bemused expression. "Regular," I replied. "Ethanol gas?" "Yes, I suppose so." "How old was the gas?" "Not more than a month," I said.

"There's your problem," the repairman shook his head in disgust. "We see this all the time. In fact, we just repaired most of the fleet of mowers from the school for the same reason. Ethanol gas has a very short shelf life for small engines. We'll blow out the lines, and clean out the carburetor. I'll send you home with some gas stabilizer, but if you can get ethanol free gas, better to use that."

I was late to the party in realizing something that every mechanic and probably every farmer already knows: Ethanol is bad for motors that are not designed to use it, which includes most small engines and millions of older vehicles still on the road.

There are many reasons why ethanol is prevalent in our fuel. George W. Bush ramped up production to offset dependence on foreign oil. Since then, ethanol has become the poster child for reducing carbon emissions, an idea heavily financed by the corn lobby, which has been more successful in promoting ethanol than the auto industry has been in resisting it. Last year several automakers and trade groups tried to get the Supreme Court to hear a challenge to the EPA's approval of E15, a blend of 15% ethanol heading to our gas pumps. The Court refused to hear the case.

One of the unintended consequences of the increased use of ethanol has been higher food prices. With government subsidies available for growing corn for fuel, more corn has been grown at the

expense of other foods. With the demand for corn always at high levels, it is more expensive to feed livestock and poultry.

Last Sunday the results of a half million dollar study funded by the federal government concluded that, at least in the short term, biofuels made with corn residue release 7% more greenhouse gases than conventional gasoline. The study has already been criticized by the Obama Administration and the biofuel industry as being flawed.

Fortunately, it appears that at least the warming of the planet has been on hold for the last 15 years. While money flows through the halls of Congress in an effort to influence the official government-mandated version of reality, it would behoove us to remember that, in the game of "reality," Nature always bats last.

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

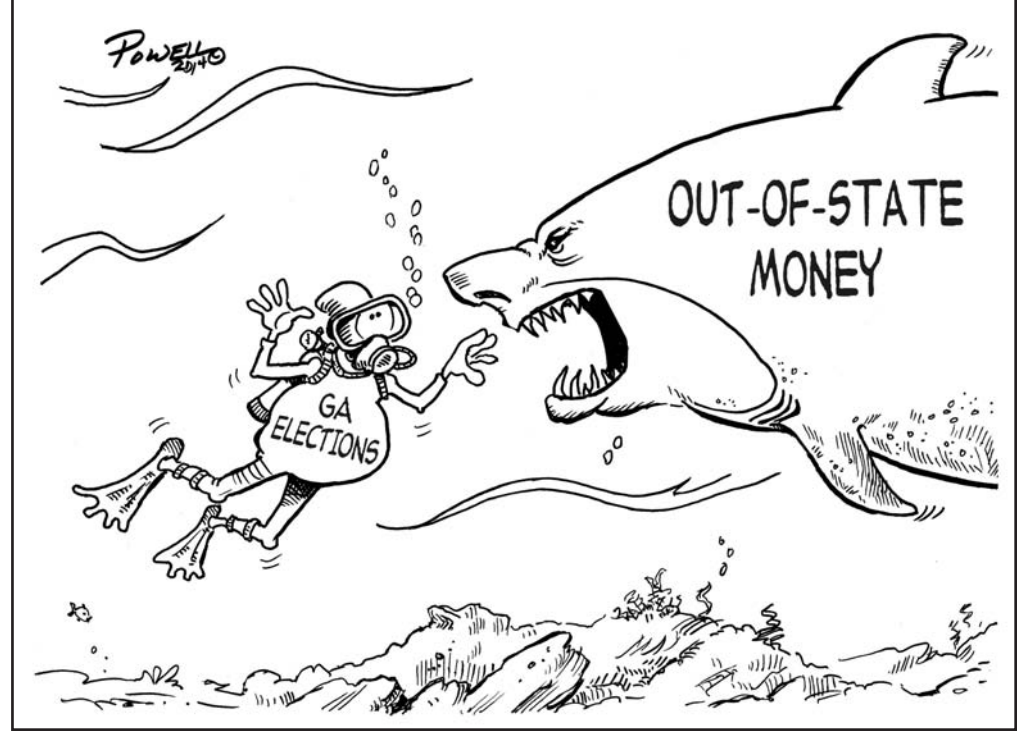
Don't Stop Now

Traditionally, Easter Sunday (in most Baptist churches) registers the highest attendance for worship of any Sunday of the year. Pastors always rejoice and are thrilled that they get to preach to so many folks. However, in the years of my ministry I found that generally the lowest attended service for worship is the Sunday following Easter. I have never quite figured that out, but it seems to me that attendance shouldn't decline but it should show a sharp increase if we really believe in the victorious resurrection of Christ. That's the reason we unite together Sunday after Sunday - to celebrate Christ's victory over death, hell and the grave! As most other pastors I found myself down on the Sunday after Easter due to decreased number's in God's house. More than a few times I felt like Parson Jones who wrote:

"Attendance at church last Sunday was mighty poor. I don't reckon I oughta grumble cause I had a bunch of sick members. When you do to all that my shut-ins we don't have a site of pew-fillers. So, I went ahead and preached to what I had. The echo from the near empty church hurt my ears. My wife said I needed to get out and ride awhile so the fresh air could clear my head. Our ride not only cleared my head, it made me feel good inside. It made me rejoice as I saw miracle after miracle. Ole Hezekiah, who had been deathly

sick that very morning, had roused up and was riding down the highway with his fishing poles. Nothin' but a miracle could have rescued old Hez from the jaws of death in such a short time. Rufe told me Sunday morning that his brother's back was in foul shape. He was afraid an operation would be necessary. We remembered him in our prayers, and lo and behold at 2 o'clock there he stood driving those golf balls. All told, about 20 of my sick folks had roused up and was taking nourishment in one form or another. What really made me happy was to see so many of my shut-ins out riding around and enjoying the world. Old Hezekiah's pa, who don't attend church cause he can't stand crowds, was headed for the drag races. Sister Nell's mama, who was too weak to get out the house, was in town shopping. Ellie Nickelsinger's sister, who can't come on account of her kidneys, stood in line two hours to get into the movie house. The show was, "The Miracle Worker." I thought this right appropriate, seeing how a miracle had happened to her. Yes sir, it thrilled my heart to see what I saw. I ought to have a packed house next Sunday with all my shut-ins being set free and my sick folks being healed. I just hope they don't overdo themselves and have a relapse. I gotta go now and play with my smallest youngun. He is gonna be the farmer and I'm gonna be the goat. Tin cans will be easier to eat after what I just swallowed."

On this coming Sunday surprise your pastor, God and everyone by showing up at church. Help to make this Sunday an UP day and not a DOWN day. Keep on celebrating!



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 1 p.m.

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.

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 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 mtregarts-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 Cadence Bank 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 Hiawassee. 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 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 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), Hiawassee. For info call Al 706-896-9614 after 6 PM.