

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



## Letters to The Editor

**Letter to the Editor:**  
Announcing the new Towns County 'Gardening in a Circle' project.

A free class will show you a very simple way of saving hundreds of dollars a year. Are you interested in growing your own vegetables?

The class will be held at the Towns County Courthouse on June 25, at 7 p.m. For anyone interested in learning how to grow vegetables in containers. All are welcome to hear Mr. Jim Hicks, local gardener, and Mr. Robert Brewer, the County Agent, speak and demonstrate on the subject of container gardening.

Jim Hicks  
Bill Kendall, Commissioner

**Letter to the Editor:**

The members of Towns County Fire Corps thank the community for their support for the yard sale on the square June 2nd that benefited our local fire department. People were plentiful and generous and \$775 was made that day.

Our volunteer fire department is there to help you when you are in dire need and now they need your help. The Fire Corps is a group of volunteers that help these dedicated men and women from behind the scenes as part of National Homeland Security and YOU are needed to: promote fire safety and prevention with education, help write grant applications, organize fundraisers, provide clerical support, and many other support activities. There is no pay, but great satisfaction.

Come join this active group on Tuesday, June 26th, at 6:30 p.m. at Fire Station #6 on Sunnyside Road (Friendship end) and learn how you can assist our firefighters. (Do not park by the fire engine bays in case they get a call.) Frank Riley, Firewise Director, will be speaking to us about making your home safe from wildfires this summer.

Current members of the Towns County Fire Corps



## RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

**Q:** Dr. Don, our two kids (8 and 7) are really involved in sports and we approve. The only problem is that I am a stay-at-home mom and I find myself running a taxi service. Our boy, the 7-year old, is in two different sports, and our girl plays in three. Everybody I talk to says it is a great idea because it helps them learn teamwork and it keeps them active, but it almost takes a computer to keep the transportation schedule straight. Is it supposed to be like this?

**A:** If it's any encouragement to you, a recent study reveals that 2/3 of America's children 8 - 18 play on multiple sports teams simultaneously. That's a lot. That's a lot of taxi driving, too. Some kids can ride bikes to the games or practice, some can walk, but a lot of them get taxied. Here's my take on the issue.

One should be the limit. One sport, one team per season. Why so arbitrary? There are a bunch of reasons; here are just three. First, the teamwork thing. How about "team family?" Teamwork begins at home, not on a T-ball field. Teamwork means that the players all give of themselves for the benefit of the team. They all help carry the load. If one is hurt, they all suffer.

If the team wins, everybody wins. It's called responsibility, a key ingredient in a successful life, and home is the best place to learn it.

Second, one advantage is that it keeps them active and that's important for kids, right? Actually, it's important for us at all ages. But mowing a lawn every week keeps them active, too. So does raking leaves, mulching flower beds, power washing the deck, washing windows, vacuuming the living room, painting the fence, vacuuming and washing the car. You get the idea. It's called chores and it is a mandatory part of every youngster's growing up.

Then there's mom - or dad - the taxi driver. It paints a twisted picture of family if the parents are consigned to the role of indentured chauffeur. One of their roles at this point is to make clear that the kids are not the center of the family universe with mom and dad in orbit around them. Mom and dad must be doing less and less for them, otherwise they end up creating a youngster with a major entitlement mindset. You've met them, they're not much fun.

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

## The Middle Path

by Don Perry

Wiley Coyote would today make a fine professor of economics. W.C. understood quite well that it is possible to walk on air - until you look down.

This is the virtual world of economics in which we live. It is a system of exchange based on smoke and mirrors, words, opinions, breaking news and high speed computers trading on the crest of every wave. It is a system in which the mere possibility that a country with .17% of the world's population might abandon one form of virtual money (the euro) for another (the drachma) sends the "value" of North American companies plummeting or skyrocketing.

The word "value" in the previous sentence is in quotations because the only thing that changes about these companies during these brief, dramatic rises and falls is their virtual value in virtual markets. Exxon doesn't sell any more or less oil; Walmart doesn't sell any more or less Chinese plastic during these brief ups and downs, but if the "downs" prevail, wage slaves across the land might see the "value" of 10 years or more of 401K contributions vanish into thin air.

That's the beauty of virtual money. As easily as it vanishes from one location, it can reappear in another. Between 2007 and 2010, the Federal Reserve secretly conjured over \$16 trillion from thin air and gave it to the largest banks in the world. It was arguably the largest transfer of wealth in human history.

Some people (banks, presidents and Congressmen) view the actions of the Fed as a necessary measure to stabilize the world economy. Some of us view it as theft. A good example of this latter point of view can be gained by including the virtual board game, Monopoly, played by over 750 million people around the world, in our discussion. Suppose the banker simply handed out monopoly money to a select few players when they needed to pay a bill or make a purchase. The price of everything from Boardwalk to Baltic Avenue would go up as the players flush with cash bid up the prices. The players not included in the "stimulus" would soon find it hard to purchase anything at all and some would go bankrupt very quickly. Before long, most of the board would be owned by the players with the most play-money.

In the virtual world of economics, this is precisely what has happened over time. Witness the remarkable transfer

### 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.**

of wealth to a very small percentage of the population over the last two decades. There is a reason for this transfer, and it is not because 1% of the population worked harder or smarter than the rest. This transfer occurred because the "banker" in our virtual game is cheating.

Unfortunately, this is not a game for anyone who must buy gas to drive to work so that they can earn money to buy groceries to feed the kids before they buy more gas to drive to work. It is not a game for the unemployed. It is not a game for the elderly beginning to discover that what remains of their life savings buys much less than it did last year or the year before.

As I scanned the headlines this morning, headlines provided by the 6 major corporations who own what we see and hear in media, I witnessed a remarkable discordance of opinion. I have never been to Greece, but I feel like I now know much more about the tiny nation than I ever cared to know. The euro survives, but cash is evaporating. Storm clouds are gathering, but the Dow could skyrocket before the end of the year, if the world doesn't end in December. I believe I can begin to understand the message behind the biblical story of the Tower of Babel.

It is easy to switch it all off. A single click on the computer; a press of a button on the remote and the sun still shines, the earth still spins its way through the heavens and the birds still sing. The corn in my garden needs hoeing, and the world is peaceful and green again in our beloved mountain home. It would be very easy to leave it all switched off, but an ostrich with his head in the sand will soon find that he can't afford to keep his little plot of sand. Sadly, the noise, the drama, the irritating, nauseating incessant flow of opinion - is our medium of exchange. Once we had gold as a measure of value. Now we have glitter and gloom. If we sincerely want to change things, that would be a good place to start.



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

### A hereafter that lasts forever

This generation is unnerved about the direction of our nation and the world-wide unrest. We have suffered many losses in the last few years. Multitudes have lost their retirements, countless families have lost their homes, thousands upon thousands have lost employment; all of which has caused vast numbers of persons to lose their dreams and visions. When people lose their dreams and visions the result is loss of hope, hope for today and tomorrow. The good that may come out of all of this is a renewal of spiritual things. Perhaps it can help us to understand that we are just passing through and all of the material and physical things the eye beholds is just temporary. However, we are headed to a hereafter that lasts forever. In fact, the Bible identifies and describes two distinct "hereafters." We must choose one of the two for our destination before we leave this earth. One hereafter is hell. Hell was originally prepared for the devil and his angels

(Matthew 25:41). The word hell is used to describe the most terrifying, horrifying, frightening and tormenting place of existence that could ever be imagined. It (hell) is the word used to describe the lowest, the least and the last. The sad thing about hell is that it will always be hell. It can never improve. Hell will be hell until it is cast into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:14). Hell is not the hereafter you want to choose. But heaven is and will be the choice of all those who are wise. Heaven is the word used to describe the most beautiful, peaceful, satisfying and most glorious place that the great God of Creation could conceive in His heart. Heaven is the ultimate. There is nothing greater or higher because heaven is the habitation of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Christ, the Righteous one. You see, heaven is perfect. Heaven is perfect the moment you arrive; it will be perfect heaven when trillions of eons have passed, and it can never improve and it will never cease to be heaven because God is there.

I am not sure what you are "here after" in this world, but you had better be careful what you are here after on this earth because it might determine your hereafter when you leave to go into the hereafter that lasts forever.

**OWN A BUSINESS?  
NEED TO ADVERTISE?**  
Contact the  
Towns County Herald  
706-896-4454



Sign of the times...

## Community Calendar

### American Legion Post 23

meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 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 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.

### 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 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 on Hwy 64 in Murphy, NC. Call President Kit Miracle: 706-492-5253 or Peggy Moorman: 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.

### Board of Voter Registrars

meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., Courthouse.

### 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 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org

### Bridge Players

intermediate level meets at 12:45 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Recreation Dept.

### Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG)

meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, located at 308 Big Sky Drive (behind the Holiday Inn), Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m. & the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtnregartsandcraftsguild.org. mtnregartsandcraftsguild@hotmail.com.

### 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/blueridge-mountains.

### Aleoholics Anonymous

: 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.

### Mothers of Preschoolers

meets on the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of 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, in the hospital cafeteria at 1:30 p.m.

### Mountain Magic Table Tennis Club

meets 6 p.m. Thursdays

at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Lee (828) 389-0924.

### We do Family Oral History

of all of our residents. If you have not had your family history recorded and would like to do so, please call the Towns County Historical Society at 706-896-1060.

### 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.

### GMREC Native Plant Garden Tours

Mondays 9 AM-1 PM. May-Sept. (except holidays). 706-745-2655.

### 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 of those with dementia are encouraged to attend. For further information, 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.

### VFW Post 7807

will have their all you can eat fish fry on the 2nd & 4th Fridays of each month from 4:30 to 7 PM. \$9 a plate. See you there!

### 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. All welcome. For more info www.shootingcreekbasketweavers.com.

**Towns County Herald**  
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