

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Letters to The Editor

To the Editor:

I am a blood bought born again Christian and by the Grace of God I was born right here in these Mountains. We do a lot of praying around here some of us even shout from time to time!! Glory be to God!!! I really hate you feel the way you do and at first couldn't believe you put your opinion in the paper. Although there were copies made and passed out to Preachers and Prayer Warriors so unlike before you're on several prayer lists. I think we need more prayer meetings, Holy Ghost Revivals and Bible believing churches around here and everywhere. The United States needs God now more than ever, it wasn't God who failed it was us the American people to allow what's going on. Let's be real a minute abortions is murder and homosexuality is wrong!! This I know because the Bible tells me so. Leviticus 18:22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it [is] abomination. Jeremiah 1:5 Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations. We sit idle by and let it go on we can't change people but we can pray to our Father up in Heaven through his Son Jesus Christ for them. The Bible also tells us to pray for our enemies and yes I also do that. We need to be teaching our children the Bible and the way of the Lord not just at home but in the schools and anywhere else we may be. Let me say one more thing Christianity is NOT going to church on Sunday! It's being saved yes saved from a burning hell that will last for an eternity, believing on THE LORD JESUS CHRIST and laboring and giving all you can for the Lord!! As for me and my house we will serve the Lord! My friend I am so sorry you don't know Jesus he gives us joy unspeakable and he's coming back to get his Bride the Church not the building but his children that are one church. Praise God for allowing me to be raised in a home with a Mama and Daddy that loved me! If you don't believe in God tell me what you see when you look at these mountains, lakes, and trees. How about a new born baby? Please excuse my southern English but I wouldn't trade it for anything!! I also would not move anywhere else and try to change it.

Tanya Gibby

To the Editor:

Hiawassee resident Brad Rouse joined 600 other volunteers in DC June 22-25 to discuss the benefit of reducing carbon dioxide emissions. The group, Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL), met in offices of 520 of 538 members of Congress.

"I had appointments with 5 Republican and 3 Democrats," said Rouse. "including Representative Paul Broun in person and staff of Reps. Collins, Kingston, Westmoreland, and Bishop. I left with the strong sense that the conversation is shifting on climate solutions, perhaps leading to bi-partisan legislation that prices carbon."

CCL's solution is a carbon fee that returns all revenue to households. With new reports about the severe impact of global warming, CCL's proposal offered a bridge across the partisan divide on climate change.

CCL volunteers took to the meetings a study from Regional Economic Models, Inc that examined the impact of a fee on carbon with revenue returned to households. The study shows that, after 20 years, the proposal would reduce greenhouse gas emissions 52%, add 2.8 million jobs, and avoid over 200,000 premature deaths.

According to Rouse, "By offering a market-based alternative to regulation that adds jobs and puts money in people's pockets it's no surprise that Republicans are interested."

Brad Rouse

## The Middle Path

by Don Perry

We love our holidays. Our holidays are few and far between and we daydream about them, like our weekends, during the long hours working and commuting. Nearly 70 percent of men and 36 percent of women in America work more than 40 hours per week, and this does not include the additional hours worked by women who still cook dinner and do housework after 8 hours at the office.

The 40 hour work week is more tradition than the result of any scientific inquiry into the most productive use of our time. In fact, some of the hours we spend commuting and working are, for the human body, the least efficient, and for the brain, the dullest. Yet our culture pivots on this artificial construct.

We inherited the 40 hour work week from Henry Ford during the 1920s. During the Industrial Revolution, prior to Ford's innovations in mass production, people commonly worked 10 to 16 hours per day. Ford's employees first worked 48 hours in a 6 day week, but he initiated a 5 day, 40 hour week while paying the same wages.

The reason for the change was more economic than altruistic. According to Ford, "Leisure is an indispensable ingredient in a growing consumer market because working people need to have enough free time to find uses for consumer products, including automobiles."

Our 5 day, 40 hour week sets the economic pulse for the economy. As tension and fatigue build during the work week, we are immersed in advertising which promises relief and satisfaction and reward for our labor. Saturday is always the biggest retail shopping day of the week, and weeks before any holiday the lure of patriotic and sentimental sales keeps us in a state of anticipation.

When time off finally arrives, we know that our time is limited and we are under pressure to shop, to travel and to fill the time away from work with as much gratification as possible. Crowded highways and parking lots add to the pressure, and to the tendency for impulsive decisions. Under pressure, we do not take as much time to consider our purchases, but just in case we do, our choices are confined to 12 hotdog buns for a pack of 8 hotdogs.

The economies of the

entire developed world are entirely dependent on consumption, and the work week is designed to keep us tired, stressed and craving.

For some time my wife and I have attempted to disconnect from the urgency of the consumption economy. We have the same weekends and holidays as everyone else, but more and more these days we choose to "vacation at home" instead of joining the frenzied masses squeezing through the bottleneck of limited time. For example, for the recent Independence Day weekend, we planned our menu and did our grocery shopping days before the holiday began. With the television mostly silent these days and the label worn off of the "mute" button, we were blissfully unaware of any holiday sales events.

Over the course of the long weekend, we stayed home and enjoyed many blessings, harder to find elsewhere but still abundant in our area. We erected a beach umbrella on the patio, sipped iced tea, read books and napped, soaking up the silence and the sounds of nature. We puttered in the garden, picked fresh squash and weeded the tomatoes. We took the dogs for a hike up the creek and splashed in the cool water. In the evening we rode our bikes to a nearby hilltop and watched a neighbor's fireworks across the valley. We thawed out leftover buns from the freezer and had exactly the right number for a package of hotdogs.



"IT'S ON MY MIND.."

Danny H. Parris

### Reasons for worry

Some years ago a Peanuts comic strip depicted Charlie Brown walking around with a placard that read, "You don't have to worry!" Lucy comes by and with her sarcastic look says, "And why Charlie Brown?" Charlie Brown turned the placard to the other side which read: "Because I worry enough for everyone!" A large portion of our society would identify with Charlie Brown. Worry is not a very pleasant activity to engage in. A famous preacher was once asked, "Do you ever worry?" He replied, "Of course not. Worry is sin. If I'm gonna sin I pick something a lot more fun than worry!" If worry is not a lot of fun, why do people worry? Well, some people worry because they have misplaced values. Jesus said that life is more than material. He said, "Take no thought for your life, what you shall eat; neither for the body, what you shall put on. The life is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment" (Luke 12:22-23). Certainly, this does not condone laziness, lack of planning nor being good stewards of the opportunities of life. But it does teach us that God, as our great shepherd will provide for His sheep. He illustrates this by saying, "Consider the ravens (vultures): for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them; how much more are you better than the fowls?" (Luke 12:24).

Many of us probably have committed to memory the following little verse:

"Said the robin to the sparrow, I'd surely like to know, Why these anxious human beings Rush about and worry so! Said the sparrow to the robin, Friend I think it must be, That they have no heavenly Father Such as cares for you and me."

A second reason for worry is a mistaken view of life. Too many of us view life from the human side and not from the divine side of life. The Bible teaches us that to live we must die; that to be free we must become slaves; to be full we must become empty and to get we must give. The human side says everything is now. I must provide, I must build, I must store up. The emphasis is upon I. The focus is not upon Him. If you have to save yourself, preserve yourself and provide for all your needs, then you have made yourself god and the pressure is really on. You have a right to worry. However, if you recognize your total inadequacy and seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness then all these other things will be added unto you (Matt. 6:33). Finally, have you noticed how many people are always preparing for the worst? They are always saving for a rainy day. They are waiting for that disease to strike them, that disaster to fall, that doom to overwhelm, that darkness to engulf. As a result they are worried, depressed and about to despair. Let me suggest that you prepare for the best. Be ready to receive God's very best for your life. "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give to you an expected end." (Jeremiah 29:11).



## RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

Kids ages 6 to 12 do less than half an hour of housework a day on average, according to Sandra Hofferth, a professor of family science at the University of Maryland, writing in a recent Time magazine article. Actually, though that's not much, I was surprised to learn it was that much. I suspect that some parents will take pleasure in learning that there is a new law pending that could change all that. Not here though; in Spain.

The Spanish parliament is considering a law requiring children to do their chores. The measure is part of a larger "Child Protection Bill" in Spain, and if passed, children under 18 will be legally bound to do housework "in accordance with their age and regardless of their gender."

What? They don't feed the dog and they go to jail? Wait; there's more.

Under the law, children in Spain will be forced by civil authorities to "respect their teachers and fellow students," "participate in family life," and "respect their parents and siblings." I'd like to see the fine print on that legislation. There will doubtless be many pages that begin, "Such as..."

But, of course, there is always a caveat when a bureaucracy intrudes where it should not. The current draft of the

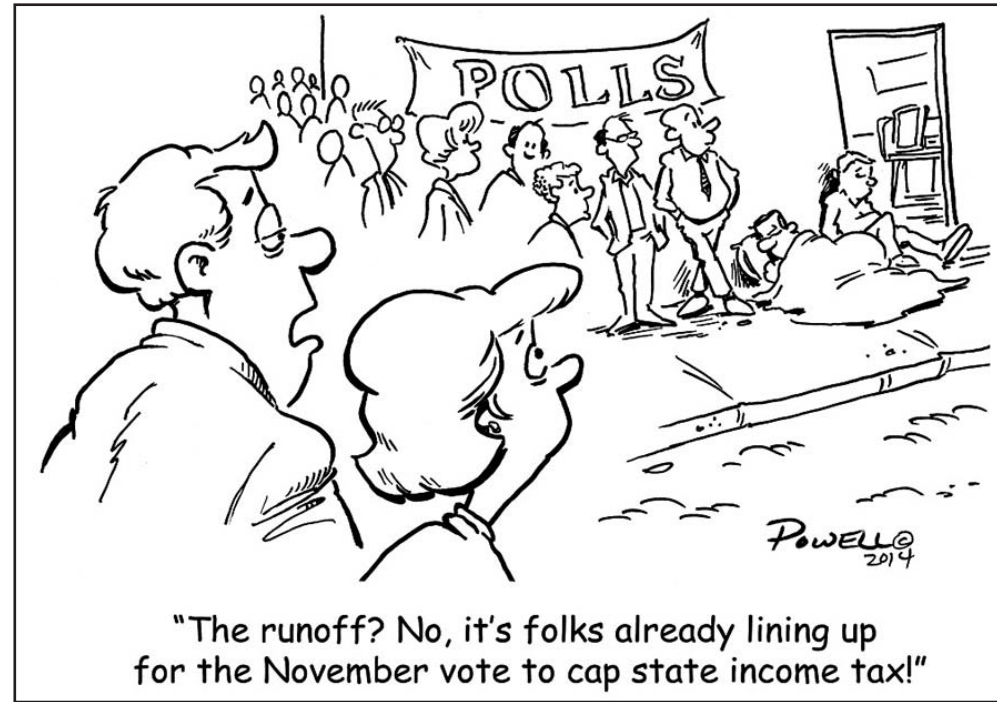
law does not mandate penalties for children who fail to do the things adults have been wanting them to do since the dawn of time. But at least next time little Billy or Sally decides they don't want to wash the dishes or take out the trash, mom or dad can motivate them by threatening to call the police.

As you would expect, some citizens are weighing in on whether a country should waste its energies on a law that has no real weight, vague language, and no stipulated penalties, even though proponents promise that it will usher in a new generation of responsible young in their nation.

All of which totally misses the point. Chores, and respect, and "family life" are not matters of state, they are matters of character. And no government can legislate character. Mom and dad are responsible for the character issues of their children. Not the state, not the school, not even the church. The Good Book is clear that it is parents who are the character-shapers.

So, with appropriate respect to our parliamentary friends in Spain, you do your work and let your parents do theirs. (Note to US Congress: We don't like this law.)

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



## 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.

**Democratic Party of Towns County** meets the 2nd Thursday of each month at 5 PM at the new Senior Center.

**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 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.

**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 artguild-store.com.

**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.

**Chattahoochee 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.

**AMREC 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 PM at the Red Cross building 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.

**FWF 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.

**The Board of Directors of the Towns County Chamber of Commerce** meet the second Monday of every month at 8 a.m. at the Chamber office, 1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris.

**Towns County Herald**  
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