

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor, Residents of Towns & Union Counties:

I have just returned from an enjoyable two weeks mini-vacation in my own hometown of Young Harris, Georgia. My sister from Juneau, Alaska and I signed up for classes at the Wm. Holland School of Lapidary Arts and Jewelry Making.

You ask, "What the heck is Lapidary?" Short version, it is the art of cutting, sculpting, polishing or engraving stones. I am amazed at how many people are passionate about "ROCKS". My sister is one of them; hunting, finding, and polishing. Me, I'm passionate about jewelry making. I have taken classes in the past; Enameling (glass powder fired onto a variety of metals), Glass Fusion (pieces of colorful glass piled on top of each other and fired/melted in a kiln to make a miniature version of abstract wearable art) and also Wire 1 (the art of wrapping wire around those shaped and polished "rocks").

The school fee is discounted for all commuters. For just a few dollars more, we opted for the full blown experience of living on their campus. We shared a room with twin beds, private bath, and three fabulous buffet style meals daily. We were sisters enjoying our pajamas and late night reminiscing after a full day of fun, educational learning from our volunteer instructors and fellow students. Yes, all the instructors are volunteers! They receive the class fee and charge for materials purchased by students.

"Volunteers are not paid, not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless!" They leave their homes as far away as Canada and Guatemala and some have been doing it for more than 20 years, each and every year.

What disturbed me was, so few of the students were locals. Everyone I've talked with seems familiar with the "other" school in North Carolina. The "other" school's fees are so much higher. We as a community need to know about, and support a wonderful opportunity right in our own backyard.

Our town offers passionate, friendly, world renowned artists in their fields of expertise at a price unmatched by "other" schools nation wide. The office, kitchen, housekeeping and maintenance staff were hard working, friendly and willing to help everyone have a memory of great times, along with making new and wonderful friends.

Oh, and by the way, they also have fantastic instructors in Polymer Clay, Glass Bead making, Beading design, Cold Metal Connections, and Beautiful Basket Weaving. Call to schedule a tour of the classes. On Tuesday nights 7-9 p.m. they hold a "non-professional" auction as a fund raiser for the school and a Tailgating Sale on Thursday nights 7-9 p.m. Both are open to the public.

They are a non-profit school right in your own backyard and need your continued support, through donations and as students!

Sincerely,
Carolyn A. Brown



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

Q: Our children are 5, 8, and 12 and they don't know sic em about money. They constantly hound us for handouts and then they don't know how to handle it when we give it to them. How can we teach them appreciation for how much things cost and not to be begging all the time?

A: Wow, children who don't know how to handle money? Amazing. Welcome to the world of they-aren't-going-to-understand-this-unless-we-teach-'em. And it ought to begin about the age of 5, about the time they enter kindergarten or first grade. Begin with a weekly allowance, the amount determined by what you expect them to pay for. Only treats for themselves and their buddies, or half of their clothing needs, for instance. The point is to help make them aware of the value of money, what they can do with it, and what happens when it's gone.

We generally suggest they be taught to put their allowance in three envelopes to get the feel of what a budget looks like. One envelope for giving, one for saving, and the other one to be used wisely. A template we encourage is 10% for giving, 10% for saving, and the balance for the third envelope. First, they need to learn to

give. Then they need to learn to save for the future. Finally they need to understand they have to live on what's left. If there isn't enough in the third envelope to cover their needs they need to change what they think they need. Or at least be willing to wait. How about an advance on next week's allowance? Never, as in not ever. Why? Because we are helping them learn about the real world.

As the child gets older he/she will likely generate income from other sources... grandparents, odd jobs around the house (not chores; she does those because she is part of the family), helping neighbors, etc. Those monies need to be processed through the same three envelopes.

Youngsters are being offered credit cards these days. Really bad idea. A credit card lets you spend money you don't have. A debit card is an option if you tie it to the checking account you may want him to open about the time he enters high school. The card only works if there is money in his account. I urge you to get these kids launched on their journey to financial savvy; you're late already.

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

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

It is difficult these days to find a positive voice in the chorus of negativity that flows into our lives from mainstream media. Bad news is the backdrop to our waking lives. We hear it on the radio driving to work. We see it, bold and sensationalized on websites. We digest it with dinner.

The six media companies which provide 90 percent of our information make money satisfying the cravings that they help to create. In a 24 hour news cycle where information is instantly accessible from every part of the world, where technological wonders that would have amazed us a generation ago are commonplace, the information that attracts our attention and our advertising dollars must be sensational to be competitive.

For an informative example, visit the Associated Press website and go to the raw news feed link. There you will find news stories from all over the world in a concise, factual form without graphics or embellishment of any kind. Then visit the *Huffington Post* and the *Drudge Report* and you will see the same stories, but with headlines tweaked almost beyond recognition.

A generation ago we called this kind of reporting "yellow journalism" and it was frowned upon. There are few people today who even remember the term.

The problem is not just in how the news is reported, but in what is selected for reporting. We are fed a steady diet of everything that is tragic, bloody and scandalous. Our half dozen media multinationals seek these stories out like vultures circling over a carcass, and they can detect the stink of a story with just about the same efficacy.

The net effect of these practices is that the news-consuming public, addicted to sensation, is herded into a mental and emotional state of acquired helplessness. Irresistibly drawn to rubberneck at the accident scene of a world always falling apart, we then seek to avoid this dire awareness in the myriad ways materialism offers us to waste our money.

The forty-hour week, segmented by our daily routines of bad news consumption, herds us into the weekend just tired and worried enough that we are ready to spend money to escape in the

most immediately gratifying ways available. It is no accident that things work out this way.

As always, the remedy for acquired helplessness is at our disposal. Media is not yet hard wired into our nervous systems. Every little box has an "off" switch. Every tube has a channel selector and every remote has a "mute" button. We can still take full responsibility for what we allow into our conscious minds.

Having a global consciousness is a good thing. Every part of our one planet is connected to every other part. Beyond economics and politics, this is a truth verified by physics. However, we do not have to allow our own world views to be centered on the strips of sand and oil upon which the nightly news, the talking heads, and the talking heads who comment on other talking heads obsess. There is much more to this amazing planet than the latest disaster the buzzards have located for us. There is always more good news than bad.

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

Woman, man's helpmeet

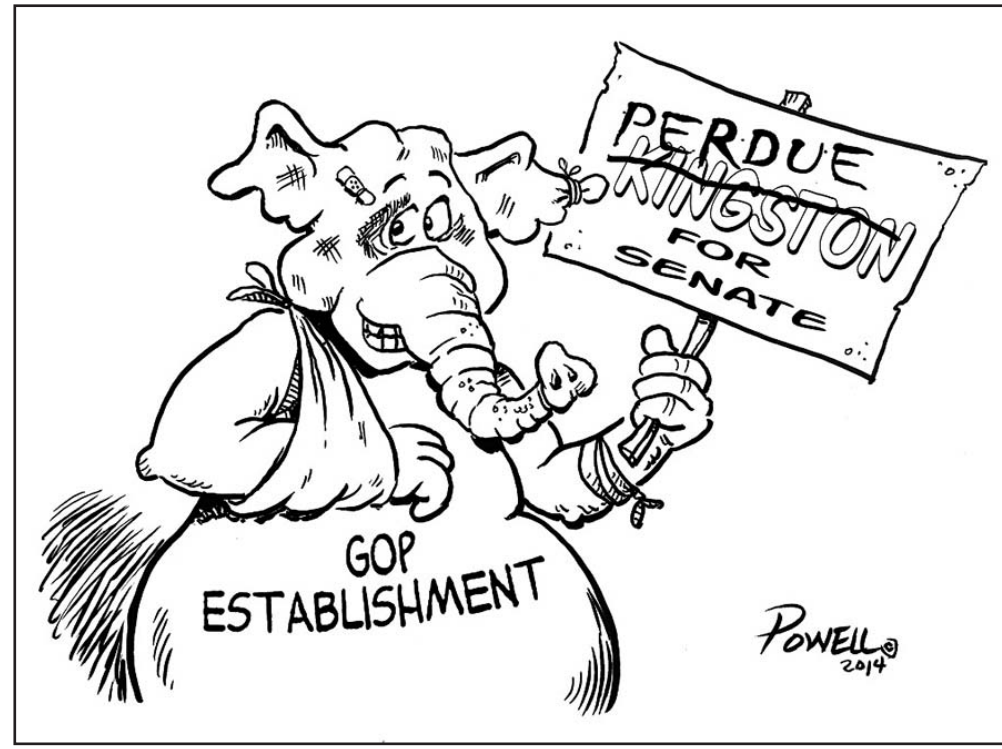
God's creation is marvelous, wonderful, fascinating, and mysterious. However, of all God's creation, woman is more fascinating and mysterious than anything God made. Poets have sung, artists have painted, novelists have written, and musicians have composed, in efforts to describe man's viewpoint of woman. Yet man still remains baffled at women. Women are very complex to men and men have a difficult time when they attempt to understand and explain this part of God's creation.

Women have been exploited, used and abused by both sexes. One man who sought to put down his wife said, "Why did God make women so beautiful and yet so dumb?" Without missing a beat his wife responded, "God made us beautiful so you would love us and dumb so you would love you!" Men still hold various views on women. Some men hold to the view that women are nothing more than chattel of men, just pieces of personal property. Some men view women as arch enemies. They are out to get men. One man said, "Woman was created after man and has been after him ever since." Still others see women only as manipulators using man's desire for woman as a key for woman's personal gain.

In spite of the volumes of books that have been written about women, the greatest

source of information and understanding comes from the Bible. In the very first book of the Bible, Genesis pictures woman as the special, unique creation of God. Without woman there would never have been an essential complementation of man's being. Both the Old Testament and the New Testament present the special place God has for woman. The Bible gives a lofty and prominent place to man's helpmeet. Some women of prominence in the Old Testament were Deborah and Esther. Both were instrumental in delivering their nation. Two books of the Bible have women's names: Ruth and Esther. Ruth, in her devotion to her mother-in-law found herself very involved in the redemptive plan of God. This Gentile woman became an illustration of the concept of the kinsman-redeemer and part of the lineage of King David and King Jesus. Womanhood was exalted to its highest level as God chose to make His entrance into human history through the channels of a woman's life.

The Bible portrays the ideal woman in Proverbs 31:10-36. In Hebrews we see women inducted into God's Hall of Fame: Sarah and Rahab. Again Jesus exalted woman as He chose to illustrate the Church as a woman bride. The first convert to Christianity in Europe was a business woman named Lydia. Paul listed numerous names of women in his epistles who were his most devoted helpers. Gentlemen, we need to give our wives their lofty place in the marriage and in the home. "Men, love your wives as Christ loves the Church and gave Himself for it." {Ephesians 5:25}.



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 on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

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.

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 each 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.

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.

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

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County

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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.