

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Mechanical Fuel Treatment Service

Wildfires always start small with a single spark, one match, or a swift lightning strike, but can turn rapidly into a destructive inferno that destroys anything and everything in its path; plants, animals, trees, vehicles, houses, and even people who become trapped such as the 19 Hotshots in Arizona recently. Wildfires can move very rapidly and destroy in a few minutes what has taken nature many - many years to grow, or houses that has taken us many - many \$ to build.

Forest fires are inevitable just like floods, tornados, hurricanes, and droughts and there is nothing that we can do to stop these natural occurring disasters, but we can prepare our forests to minimize the potential damage before one starts. Foresters and forest fire managers for many years have used various methods to remove underbrush from forests that is potential fuel for a destructive wildfire. Prescribed burning is one of the most economical, practical, and desirable fuel reduction methods where the forest floor is burned with a "cool fire" under controlled conditions and causes very little damage to the trees or the surrounding environment.

The prescribed fire removes the potential fuels so there is nothing to accelerate an accidental fire. Prescribed fire leaves a clean forest floor where grasses and plants can grow for wildlife to munch on and also allows rain water to filter into the ground instead of running off.

With our rapidly growing Wildland Urban Interface (people living in the forest) prescribed burning is becoming more and more difficult because people don't want to try to understand the need for reducing the fuel loads in the surrounding forests because they don't want to be unconvinced to smell the smoke even for a few hours. We are a society of "I don't want to be bothered no matter what the reason and I want it fixed or stopped now" and won't listen to reason until the disaster is rushing toward them and then it is too late to fix it.

There are more less intrusive methods to reduce forest fuels although not on as large a scale as prescribe fire. The Georgia Forestry Commission is offering a new service: me-

Executive Director of RC&D



Frank Riley

chanical fuel treatment. GFC's mechanical fuel treatment offers safe and effective control of understory vegetation that can make wildfire mitigation and control a struggle. These powerful tools, called masticators, churn through places unsuited for traditional methods such as prescribed burning and chemical treatment.

Mechanical fuel treatment is ideal for areas in the wildland-urban interface, land near gas lines, power lines, rights of way and other smoke-sensitive areas. Mechanical fuel treatment machines are specifically equipped to safely and effectively manage the thick understory that grows in Georgia's forests: The machines consist of: 88" wide front mount/triple rotary deck, rear discharge mechanical underbrush clearing machine that mulches all underbrush and trees up to four inches in diameter efficiently and effectively - much faster than tractor drawn or track machines. It can clear up to two acres per hour and leaves the ground undisturbed and does not produce smoke that people complain so loudly about. The machine is basically a large zero turn mower that will cut and mulch any brush or small trees that it can run over. The mulch is left on the ground to hold in moisture.

To learn more about GFC's masticator mechanical fuel treatment service, contact your local GFC office or call 1-800-GA-TREES or check out the masticator online at: www.gatrees.org/communityforests/wui/MechanicalFuelTreatmentServiceFlyer.pdf.

Chest/Chatt RC&D promotes any method to reduce the risk for destructive wildfires and for more information on this program or other RC&D programs contact Frank M. Riley, Jr. - Executive Director of the Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council.

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

What makes the world tick? What turns the wheel of time and drives the forces of history? Why do the leaders of nations make decisions that, on the surface, seem illogical or even irrational?

Christianity tells us that satan is the prince of all things worldly. Humanism might assert that all individuals seek to maximize the results from the energy they expend. Science looks at biological motivations and territorial imperatives.

Perhaps all of these explanations describe part of the truth, but as an ant struggling to comprehend even the complexities of the ant hill, the understanding of field, meadow and valley is bound to be difficult if not impossible.

In seeking information about our world or about our nation, most of us must settle for marketing and propaganda disguised as news or educational material. However, there are some of us who, by virtue of being positioned closer to the action, have more of an insider's view of world events.

Major General Smedley Butler was one of the most decorated Marines in US history. He served in the Philippines, China, Central America and the Caribbean and during World War I he served in France. General Butler was twice a recipient of the Medal of Honor and by the end of his career he had received 16 medals - five for heroism.

After decades of service in the military, General Butler became an outspoken critic of war and the forces that President Dwight Eisenhower would later describe as the Military Industrial Complex. The following is an excerpt from a speech by General Butler, given in 1933. With the changing of a few names, the speech could have been given yesterday:

"I spent thirty- three years and four months in active military service as a member of this country's most agile military force, the Marine Corps. I served in all commissioned ranks from Second Lieutenant to Major-General. And during that period, I spent most of my time being a high class muscle- man for Big Business, for Wall Street and for the Bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism.

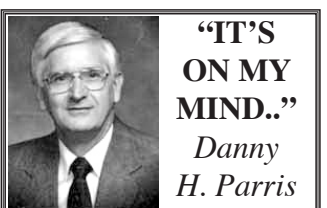
"I suspected I was just part of a racket at the time.

Now I am sure of it. Like all the members of the military profession, I never had a thought of my own until I left the service. My mental faculties remained in suspended animation while I obeyed the orders of higher-ups. This is typical with everyone in the military service.

"I helped make Mexico, especially Tampico, safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the National City Bank boys to collect revenues in. I helped in the raping of half a dozen Central American republics for the benefits of Wall Street. The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of Brown Brothers in 1909-1912 (where have I heard that name before?). I brought light to the Dominican Republic for American sugar interests in 1916. In China I helped to see to it that Standard Oil went its way unmolested.

"During those years, I had, as the boys in the back room would say, a swell racket. Looking back on it, I feel that I could have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in three districts. I operated on three continents."

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

Dealing with anger

The question is not "Do you get angry?" The question is "How do you handle your anger?" R. Lofton Hudson tells the humorous story of a five year old boy who got angry at his mom and locked himself in her closet. He got real quiet for a few minutes and his mother became concerned. She asked, "What are you doing in my closet?" The little boy answered, "I have spit on your coat, I spit on your shoes, I spit on your dresses and I am sitting here waiting on more spit." Needless to say that was not a very good way to handle his anger. But even adults are childish when it comes to dealing with anger. Some people turn into an "Incredible Hulk" and start throwing things around, while others just turn into an "Incredible Sulk." They mope around with a long face, mumbling, grumbling, and determined to make everyone they meet miserable. Their face reveals the condition of their angry spirit. I heard about two young boys who were collecting glass bottles for recycling. They approached a man's house and asked him if he had any beer bottles. The man in an angry and loud voice shouted, "Do I look like a man that drinks beer?" One of the little boys looked at him with a sheepish grin and said, "Do you have any vinegar bottles?" There are others who try to find a scapegoat. They direct their anger toward objects or innocent by-standers. They need to hit something or someone. Two of Jesus' disciples had a little problem with anger. James and John, the Sons of Thun-

der, wanted to call a little fire down on a Samaritan village on one occasion, but Jesus told them that He had not come to destroy men's lives but to save them. I must confess that as a Baptist preacher, there have been times that I would like to have called a little fire out of heaven to singe a few folks. Basically, there are three ways to deal with anger: repress it, express it, or release it. There are dangers in all three ways. To repress anger is a form of denial. Some people feel guilty about any kind of anger so they just pretend that it is not there. They bury it, ignore it, and think it will be okay. They feel they are free from anger. There are times that anger needs to be repressed. On a short-term basis, this has its rewards, but to push anger into one's subconscious is to reap bitterness. Anger that is left to fester will grow and multiply. Bitterness is the result of anger that has never been dealt with in an adequate way. Repressed anger leads to greater problems. If you think that you can put it out of your mind, you are mistaken. You must, to be free from anger, recognize your anger; realize the source from which it arises. Then you must repent of it and request Christ to forgive you. Receive Christ's forgiveness, release your anger and refuse to let it remain a consuming force in your life. Remember that you need a supernatural power to conquer a raging emotion like anger. Let God's Spirit control your anger. Do not allow Satan to use anger to rob you of the joy of life, to destroy your family, harmony in your work place, nor the unity in your church family. Don't excuse your anger by saying, "That's just the way I am," or "I can't help it," "I have red hair," or "I am Irish." The writer of Proverbs says, "A fool always loses his temper, but a wise man holds it back."

RARE KIDS; WELL DONE By Don Jacobsen

Do you talk to your kids about sex? I hope so. Everybody else does. They get it from their friends. They get it in school. They get it on TV. They get it online. They get it from Hollywood. They get it about everywhere they look. And what they get from all those other sources is totally different from what we want them to know.

Hence my question: Do you talk to your kids about sex? Teaching a middle schooler how to put a condom on a banana is not sex education. In fact, most of what our kids are exposed to depicts sex as recreational. The common view they see is false and if not corrected will cheat them out of all that married intimacy was intended to be. Our culture's common view is, "It's no big deal; it's just fun." That's a lie. Sex brings lasting joy only if it is done in the way a wise Creator designed it.

I know, this view of sexual purity pushes against the culture of our day. But leadership parents are quick to decide that custom does not shape their family's morals. We do our kids no favors if we accept what has become acceptable and fail to prepare them to rise above it. One of the ways we help them is

through the casual conversations we have with them about sex. Everybody else is talking to them about it, so must we.

I urge you not to wait for "the talk" that every middle schooler and every parent dreads. Talk unashamedly at home. As your kids ask questions, give simple, age-appropriate answers. Even to the young we can say, "Sex is something a loving Creator designed for married people. It's for mommies and daddies to be really close and show their love for each other." As they grow, an observation like this can be useful: "I didn't appreciate the story Allen told tonight - I thought it cheapened something that is very beautiful. That's why we don't talk like that in our home."

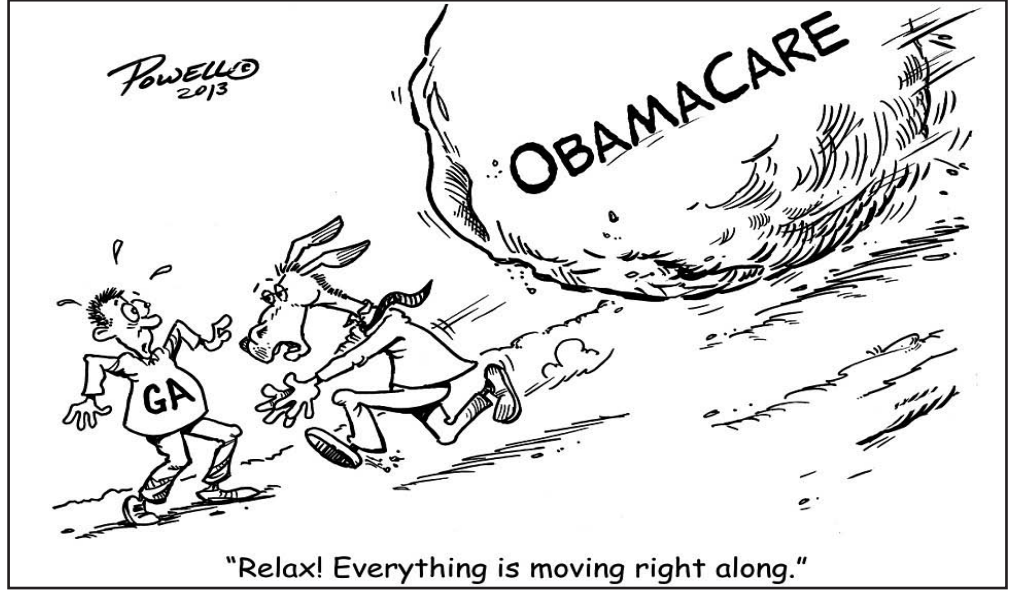
Even more direct, Dad can say, "Sex was never intended outside of marriage. I know, you'll hear some folks say it's ok anytime, anywhere, but to use it that way is to steal something precious that does not belong to them." Leadership parents help their kids learn to do right because it is right. So keep talkin'.

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

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.



"Relax! Everything is moving right along."

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 2 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. 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. 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 mtngarts-craftsguild.org. 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 at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains. 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. 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. 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 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 (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 Hiawassee Senior Ctr. from 7-9 PM. \$5/person to dance. Free to watch. Call 706-379-2191. 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 their 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.

Towns County Herald Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County KENNETH WEST.....PUBLISHER CHARLES DUNCAN.....EDITOR, ADVERTISING SHAWN HENRIKSON.....COPY EDITOR LIBBY SHOOK.....STAFF WRITER, PHOTOGRAPHER JOE COLLINS.....STAFF WRITER, PHOTOGRAPHER JOE COLLINS.....ADVERTISING SALES LOWELL NICHOLSON,NEWS,SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER OFFICE LOCATED AT 518 N. MAIN ST. SUITE 7 "THE MALL" HIAWASSEE (706) 896-4454 Publication Number 635540. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiawassee, Georgia under Act of March 3, 1879. With additional mailing points. EMAIL Address: tcherald@windstream.net POSTMASTER: Send change of address to: TOWNS COUNTY HERALD P.O. BOX 365 HIAWASSEE, GEORGIA 30546 DEADLINE FOR ALL NEWS COPY & ADVERTISING: Fridays at 5 PM SUBSCRIPTION RATES TOWNS COUNTY (1 YEAR) \$15 OUT OF COUNTY (1 YEAR) \$25 The Towns County Herald is not responsible for advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All subscriptions must be paid in advance.