

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Dear Editor,
 Since Georgia wants to push bikers to getting license plates and register their bikes to be on the highways and biways now, what about ATV's, golf carts, go carts, scooters and especially farm machinery and road/construction machinery as well? How many times have we gotten behind a tractor or hay baler going down the road and they won't pull over or attempt to get out of the way. Many times you have to follow them for a while until you can get the chance to pass but very seldom. I have taken chances many times, dangerous chances around curves or over a hill after following for several miles because they just won't pull over, and hope and pray I can get across or around safely to the other side. Aren't there flat beds or truck haulers that pull behind trucks that they can haul them on like many do lawnmowers and trash and other stuff? Of course though, every time I mention anything about this to any one I seem to always get the same answer... "You wouldn't have any food though if it wasn't for the farm equipment... yada yada yada." But since when do human beings eat hay?! But then many would probably say back... "You eat hamburgers though and the cows have to have something to eat don't they?" True they do, but, I am a vegetarian.
 Thank you for your time...

D. Barnes

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

It is hard to predict whether or not the imbeciles in Washington will have managed to avoid a technical default on the government's debt by the time you begin to read your newspapers on Wednesday. In a game of highway "chicken," one or both parties will usually swerve out of the way at the last second, usually. A miscalculation or a mistake at high speeds can end in disaster.

Many of us have difficulty wrapping our heads around the nature of the threat to our economy that the media has been drooling over for months; the real danger behind all the political drama. An economic head-on collision at the end of this game of chicken will be silent. The wreckage and the casualties will not be immediately apparent. After all, on 17 October, the laws of physics will not be suspended. The sun will rise as usual. Our alarm clocks will still buzz and the road to work will still be clogged with vehicles. Hammers and nails will still function as they have for a hundred years. Bulldozers will still be capable of moving earth.

Turbines will still turn. Computers will still compute. The strength and the creativity of hard working people will not be diminished.

However, if a default happens, we will all soon become aware of the true nature of the tapeworm economy we have allowed to grow on this planet.

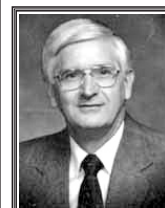
Like Wiley Coyote chasing the Roadrunner over a cliff, we will look down to discover that there is nothing under our feet. We will realize that our economic wellbeing - our ability to put gas in the car and food on the table, the money we think we have in our retirement account, the roof over our head, the water in the tap and the power in the plug - are all dependent upon forces that we do not understand and cannot control.

If a default happens we may just begin to realize the extent to which our system has been infested with parasites. We may begin to see why that working as hard as we can for as long as we can, many of us even holding down two jobs, is not enough to guarantee success. We may begin to realize that our economic wellbeing and the way of life we take for granted is now less a matter of our own

efforts and more a question of whether there is anything left over after the parasites have satisfied their appetites.

Whether or not we will be able to move forward in our efforts to address the ills of our healthcare system is but a subplot in the drama now being enacted in Washington. The real question is whether or not the seamless integration of government and banking will be able to continue business as usual, and that business is total awareness, total control and our total dependency. Think about that. Think about a nation in which the ability to work, to save money, to stay healthy and to grow old with some vestige of security, to walk down the street or to get on an airplane without being blown to bits by "terrorists," a nation in which survival itself - is dependent upon federal government and international banking.

The challenge is that our system is so infested with parasites that we cannot now hope to kill the tapeworms without endangering the host.



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

The Divine Library

The Bible is a miracle of God. It was written over a period of 1500 to 1600 years in locations from Babylon to Rome. The 39 books of the Old Testament and the 27 books of the New Testament were written by 40 plus authors with varied backgrounds. They were kings, farmers, fishermen, shepherds, a physician, a former tax collector, a tentmaker and various other people. For the most part they were not knowledgeable of other writings at the time they wrote. Not a one of them was aware that he was writing a portion of the Bible. However, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and through God's divine providence these books were gathered together to make up the Canon of Scripture which tells a complete story of God's redeeming love. Even though the Bible has multiple writers it is evident that it has a common author and that author is God. This cannot be said of any other book. Originally the Old Testament was written in Hebrew and the New Testament in Greek. Some few parts

were written in Aramaic.

Today, the Bible has been translated into almost every language of the world. It is a God-breathed book. The Psalmist said, "Forever, O Lord, Thy Word is settled in heaven" (Psalm 119:89). The prophet Isaiah said, "The grass withereth, the flower fadeth; but the Word of our God shall stand forever" (Isaiah 40:8). Jesus said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matthew 24:35). Solomon, the king of Israel, confessed, "There hath not failed one word of all His good promise" (I Kings 8:56). Our generation desperately needs to discover and experience the miracle Book, The Holy Bible. It is the book we need today for instruction, guidance and hope in a very troubled land.

To quote the late Dr. A.Z. Conrad: "Century follows century - There it stands. Empires rise and fall and are forgotten - There it stands. Dynasty succeeds dynasty - There it stands. Kings are crowned and uncrowned - There it stands. It out lives, out lifts, out loves, outreaches, outranks, outruns all other books. Trust it, love it, obey it, and eternal life is yours."

It is the miracle book and it shall stand forever! Spend some time in The Divine Library today.



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

No country in history has taken more aggressive steps to make life less difficult for those for whom it will never be easy. But the point of the news report I was watching a few nights ago about our help to the handicapped was to describe how widely that program is being abused. People who have trouble finding a job are often encouraged to go to a sympathetic physician and describe a physical issue, real or contrived, that might cause them discomfort to have normal employment. They receive a form to fill out and turn in to a government office and before long they begin receiving monthly checks.

I was especially struck by the comment of one of the government auditors who was being interviewed. She said, "If the American people knew how this program is being exploited, half of them would rise up in revolt and the other half would rush to sign up!"

Rush to sign up? For what? To get something for nothing? To be provided a living at someone else's expense with no effort on their part? To game the system? To lie just a little to get a life of ease?

Ruthie and I were having lunch recently with a high

school teacher friend of ours. He plaintively explained how much of his classroom time is spent trying to plant a vision in the hearts of his kids, to help them want to make a difference in their world, to motivate them to be willing to work hard so they impact the lives of others. One 17-year-old told him "Look, my uncle sits on his front porch all day and drinks beer, then he gets a check every month from the government. How can you improve on that?"

In the Bible story of creation, the first thing God does is to take Adam and Eve to a garden and put them to work. It was no accident. Work provides a sense of dignity, a sense of fulfillment, of personal worth. Later the Apostle Paul would say, "If a person doesn't work they shouldn't eat." An attitude of entitlement is a curse. It sucks the self-worth out of the soul. It robs the heart of its dignity and sense of purpose. I know, there are legitimate exceptions; but not many. From very early, like age three, make sure your kids learn to see themselves as contributors.

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



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GUEST COLUMNS

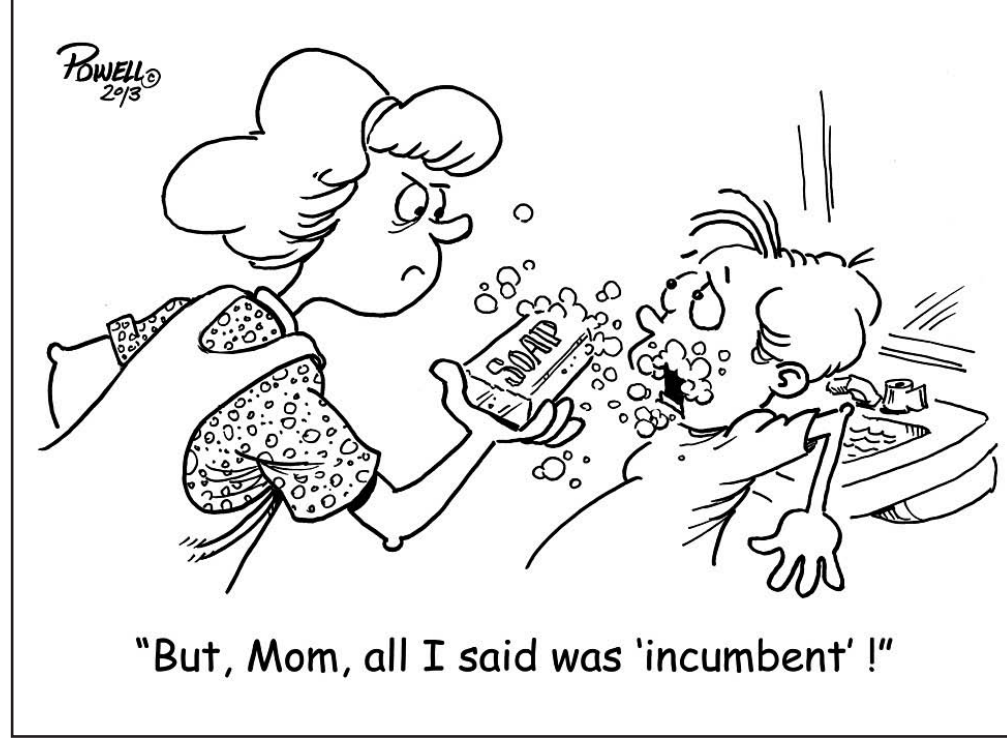
From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear throughout the paper. If so, please write. Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED 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.

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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 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.
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.
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 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.
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 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.