

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Letters to The Editor

**Dear Editor,**  
This is in response to Vernon Dixon's letter in which he makes an argument that using alternative energy sources as opposed to fossil fuels would boost the economy. It seems that it is politically correct for liberal politicians, the media, and even the Pope to call on us to end our addiction to oil. This trend towards alternative fuels has been going on for some time now. Wind and solar energy are safe and stable, but they don't pack the punch that fossil fuels do. In 2015 we are nowhere close to running out of oil, thanks especially to shale exploration. There are benefits to continued use of fossil fuels. They are still the only source of abundant, cheap and reliable energy. Keep in mind how much of the world runs on fossil fuels. Almost all vehicles, facilities and factories, large equipment, the majority of heating and cooling systems, and pretty much anything else you can think of. Even things that are run on electricity are technically still run on fossil fuels; how do you think the electricity is generated—by burning coal. Fossil fuel use has been proven to be essential to industrial civilization. China and India have experienced rapid growth and reduction in poverty due to industrialization. The argument among the progressives is that the greatest threat of our generation is global climate change and that the continued use of fossil fuels will bring about the end of the world. It is ironic that the "experts" who are opposed to fossil fuels continue to oppose the release of carbon dioxide. One positive impact of increased carbon dioxide, which plants need to grow, is the growth in vegetation all over the world. In effect, the world has grown greener thanks to fossil fuel use.

Tim Groza

**Dear Editor,**  
Thanks to the generosity of City of Hiawassee home and business owners who have contributed to the Hiawassee Ambassadors Program Special Projects Fund, on Saturday evening December 5th, we will have the first Community Christmas Celebration and Tree Lighting Ceremony in the City Square. These events and more will follow the Sheriff's "Christmas in the Mountains" parade also scheduled for December 5, 2015. The parade starts at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds at 5:30 PM and ends near McConnell Memorial Baptist Church.

Entertainment is being planned to include special music, refreshments, a children's Christmas tree decorating project, and visits for children with Santa and Mrs. Claus in the Gazebo. Parents may take pictures of their children with their own cameras or cell phones. And for the first time, a committee of volunteers led by Wolfgang Hempel of Fortitude Estate Jewelry and Susan Phillips, a local designer and artist are planning to decorate a Christmas tree as well as the Gazebo and other areas in our City Square.

CASA will hold a special event this evening to include lighting the City Square with dozens of luminaries given in honor of or in memory of loved ones. Later, you will hear more from Liz Ruf, Enota CASA Board member, about how to purchase a luminary to memorialize your loved ones.

Mark your calendars and plan to join your friends and neighbors in downtown Hiawassee to celebrate the beginning of the Christmas season on December 5, 2015.

Sincerely,  
Connie Fisher, Chair  
Hiawassee Ambassadors Program (H.A.P.)

P.S. Donations to beautify the City Square are still gratefully being accepted by the City of Hiawassee, H.A.P.

## RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

Some disturbing stuff coming out of the University of New Hampshire. We all know about the statement from the Declaration of Independence that observes, "...all men are created equal." Well, the buzz on campus of UNH is that this kind of statement is a "micro-aggression" against women. So is sexist humor, "restrictive gender roles," and "assumption of inferiority."

The new claim is that these attitudes are causing migraine headaches, heart disease, autoimmune disorders, depression, anxiety, and eating disorders among women. Oh, and poverty. Frankly, that mindset troubles me. I know that the gender playing field isn't always level, and I hate that. We should all recognize that we are equal in the sight of God, and be alert to the ingrained verbal putdowns common in our culture. But we are continuing to create generations of victims by inventing excuses. Do the whiners who foment this kind of "research" mean to suggest that the women among us can only survive in a perfect world? That seems to me to be a very sexist attitude.

I was intrigued by the response of one of the female UNH students who said, "Trying to protect these special snowflakes and not preparing them for the real world where

people will upset them, I fear for the future." One of the male students was not as genteel. His take: "...Treating women like a bunch of adult children should also be considered a micro-aggression."

I feel sorry for a generation of kids who see themselves as victims of their culture, and who use that as an excuse for underachievement, anger, or physical or emotional limitations. News flash: No generation inherits a perfect world. In fact, historically those who have become history-changers have more often than not come from less than ideal circumstances.

I have a friend who, though nearly forty, routinely attempts to explain away his lack of motivated behavior by stating that his dad died when he himself was just a toddler. That's tough, I know. But it's not difficult to develop a long list of people who lived productively even though they came from one-parent families.

My appeal today is, Down with the excuses! Leaders – of either gender – are most often those who have overcome obstacles rather than hidden behind them. Your kids have a hill to climb? Good; it helps make them strong.

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

## The Middle Path

by Don Perry

The remnants of the strongest hurricane ever recorded are bringing more rain to North Georgia on this, the 299th day of what they say will probably be the hottest year on record. NASA told us earlier in the year that 2014 was the hottest year, though unreported was the admission that there was a margin of error in their calculations which allowed only a 38% probability that this was correct. If it was correct, then 2014 was .02 degrees C warmer than the previous warmest year of 2010. Of course there is a margin of error in their calculations of .1 degrees C, which, if you are following the math, is five times greater than the temperature increase.

Chances are that the climate debate will only be settled long after any chance that we could have affected the outcome has expired, or else we will discover that there never was anything we could have done. It is entirely possible that the biggest influence on climate is solar, or even sidereal. It is also possible that, if humanity is indeed responsible for planetary warming, switching every automobile in the US to electric and every power plant to wind or solar would not offset the effects of burning coal in India and China.

Don't get me wrong. I am not a "denier" of drought, or melting ice caps or warming oceans. I have merely learned to be forever skeptical of any information that comes from government, and not to be redundant, from corporate sources. Nevertheless, whether climate change is "manmade" or not, any effort to reduce drilling, mining, fracking and burning fossil fuels would be worthwhile simply to reduce the amount of pollution we breathe and drink and eat.

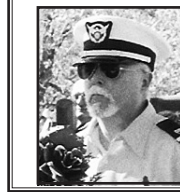
Hottest year or not, this was also the year we learned more about the acidification of the oceans caused by increasing carbon dioxide levels, something which threatens the entire food chain. This was the year that science admitted that processed meat (think "bacon" and anything containing nitrates) causes cancer and that glyphosate (think "Roundup"), another carcinogen, can now be found in many cotton products, including feminine hygiene products and "or-

ganic" cotton t-shirts. This was the year that many of us became aware that about half of all nail polish brands contain hormone disrupting chemicals; (think "breast cancer.")

Arguably there is little we can do personally to move the needle on climate change, but we can and we are beginning to influence corporate offerings by demanding healthier products, though we must remain skeptical of their advertising. To again state the obvious, corporations, like government, will knowingly lie and deceive to protect profits or forward an agenda, but a growing number of skeptics are helping us to remain vigilant.

For those of us attempting to comment on the events of our times, it is always difficult to sift out the facts spun by politics and clouded by hyperbole. Personally, I believe that the bigger threat to our well-being, at least over the short term, is the possibility that we may have to endure either a Clinton or a Trump Administration in the White House. Unfortunately, at this point in time we have about as much chance of changing that outcome as we have of changing the weather.

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## The Veterans' Corner

By Scott Drummond, USCG Veteran

### The good Lord guided me all the way

Frontz Goring, born July 20, 1921 Detroit, MI, loved football and baseball, graduating High School in 1939. In 1940 he hired on with Michigan Bell, about a year later he entered the Reserve Signal Corps, taking classes in electronics and early mode radar schooling. After Reserve Corps enlisting in the AAC, he was told he had second degree flat feet and could be deferred. He wanted to serve. Basic training took him to Miami Beach and he lived in the Royal Palm Hotel. After becoming ill and passing out, the doctors referred him to a psychiatrist who declared him "not fit for overseas duty" and he ended up on swim team and playing softball. Frontz was then shipped to Camp Murphy, Sanford, FL for more radar study, then to Warner Robbins, GA, assigned to radar modifications B-17s.

Frontz had several attacks resulting in vomiting and passing out; back to another shrink who prescribed "special duty only", indicating more sports. 1944 found Frontz at Smokey Hill AFB in Salinas, KS, home of the 247th bomb group with transition of the B-17s to B-29s and teaching the brand new, secret airborne radar. While on Thanksgiving KP duty Corporal Goring served lunch to an astoundingly beautiful young lady, Mason, serving as a weather forecaster in the WAAC and was instantly infatuated. One week later he sat beside her at a movie, asked her for a date. Having no vehicle, he borrowed a radar transport truck with no passenger seat and she

used a milk crate for a seat. As a true romance began, Mason's captain informed her that she was due to be shipped out to Tinker Field in Oklahoma and for "her to latch onto him, if serious."

Frontz proposed and they married on January 13, 1945, resulting in a 10 day fur-lough and honeymoon. Sadly and ironically Frontz and his family back home were later notified that his brother, Bill, was killed while serving in the 3rd Army, at the Battle of the Bulge, this same date. Bill, a "great kid", also never had to serve, but insisted. Mason was shipped to Tinker Field. Frontz's condition worsened and he was again referred to another shrink, this time one who wasn't crazy, himself, who properly interviewed Frontz, calling the hospital and insisting they find out what was really wrong. A urologist discovered Frontz's right kidney was restricted and enlarged, potential for death. Medically discharged, Frontz went back to Michigan Bell and had his kidney removed Thanksgiving Day 1946. Mason was also discharged from the WAAC, pregnant with their daughter, Sandra Lee born January 10, 1946.

Retiring in 1975, Frontz and Mason moved here, to Hiawassee in 1979. Mason was called Home and now helps our Lord continue watching over Frontz, and his golfing buddies. She is now permanently honored on our Veterans' Memorial Wall. Frontz and Mason fell in love with Union Hill Methodist Church where he still attends.

Semper Paratus



## 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!  
**VFW Fish Fry** April - October on 2nd & 4th Fridays each month from 4:30 - 7. \$10 per plate.  
**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 2nd Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m. at new Senior Center. Newcomers welcome. Questions please contact the T.C. Dem's at Townscountydemocrats@gmail.com.  
**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 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. Sat. morning breakfast 2nd Sat. of each month from 8 - 10:30 AM. \$6 adults, \$3 12 & under.  
**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 old Rec Center in Hiawassee at 5:30 p.m. 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 & Crafts Guild** meets 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Calvary Chapel on Hwy. 76 in Hiawassee. All local artists and crafters are welcome, for information call 706-896-0932.  
**Mountain Computer User Group** meets the 2nd Monday of each month. Meetings start at 6 p.m. and visitors are welcome. Details can be found at www.mcug.org.  
**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 Gary at 706-896-4308 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.  
**Alcoholics Anonymous**: meets every Friday and Sunday evening at 7 at Red Cross Building at 1293 Jack Dayton Circle. 24 hour phone line 828-837-4440.  
**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.  
**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 PM at the Shrine Club, Industrial Blvd., Blairsville.  
**GMREC Garden Tours** every Monday 9 a.m.-1 p.m.  
**Shooting Creek Basket Weavers** meets 2nd Wednesday of every month at 10 a.m. at Shooting Creek Fire Hall Community Center. For more info www.shootingcreekbas-

ketweavers.com.  
**Friendship Community Club** meets the 3rd Thursday of the month 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 evening 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.  
**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 the Towns County Chamber of Commerce** meets the second Monday of every month at 8 a.m. at the Chamber office, 1411 Jack Dayton Circle, Young Harris.  
**The Quilting Bee** at McConnell Memorial Baptist Church in Family Life Center, Room 216. 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month from 10 AM - 3 PM. Bring a sack lunch. For more information call Kathy at 706-835-6721 or Marilyn at 706-897-4367.  
**Mountain Coin Club** meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the North Georgia Tech campus in Blairsville. Guests are welcome. For more info, call 706-379-1488.  
**Monday morning BINGO** at Brasstown Manor every Monday morning at 9:30 a.m. 108 Church St., Hiawassee. Players meet in the Bradford. Questions 706-896-4285.  
**Towns County Lions Club** meets 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Daniel's Restaurant, 273 Big Sky Drive, Hiawassee.

## Towns County Herald

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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

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