

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Editor: It seems to me that, rather than being so obsessed with casting lots (a Biblical reference) as to the division of the SPLOST monies, the respective community leaders ought to focus more on bringing jobs to the area.

Jobs (especially permanent ones) = income = spending = tax revenue for all three SPLOST claimants = more and better services from each claimant at less cost to us, the taxpayers = we ALL are better off.

Claudos G. Spears

To the Editor:

The Towns County Board of Education's plan to raise property taxes by 16.36% is the worst decision of the decade and must not be allowed to stand.

When considering just one of these, athletics, it's hard to see how students have either the time or energy to attend to academic matters because they are so busy playing games.

The property tax is a grossly unfair way to fund education because it places a disproportionate burden on older citizens who have no children in the system, many never did.

Bill Kendall helped some by limiting runaway assessments to a maximum of 3% per year. I believe the BOE should be limited by this same rule.

Furthermore, the Board needs to make some sound business decisions and immediately reduce or eliminate discretionary spending not directly related to academic achievement to attain a sustainable budget.

Therefore, I strongly urge taxpayers to attend hearings on November 14th at 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. at the BOE office and voice their concerns. WE MUST STOP THIS IRRESPONSIBLE ACTION!

Wm. Ronald Gibson



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE By Don Jacobsen

Did you ever learn anything from a marshmallow? You did if you remember the famous experiment done with a group of 4-year olds nearly fifty years ago.

However, if they didn't ring the bell, but waited for the researcher to come back into the room on his own, they would get to eat two marshmallows.

The entire process was filmed, and it's a fascinating study in childhood behavior to watch the kids struggle with the temptation.

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

However, the most fascinating part of the study came twenty-five years later. The same group of youngsters were studied, now nearly 30-years old.

By contrast, those who had been successful in waiting till the researcher returned to the room thereby winning a double measure of marshmallows were more likely to have done better in school.

Learnings: One of the ways we can contribute to our children's success in life is to help them understand that while short-term compromise may look attractive, deciding to go with a bigger goal generally brings greater rewards.

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

This morning we are venturing into murky waters, a kind of Bermuda Triangle of fact and interpretation where the compass spins and the stars are obscured by clouds.

There are many vessels in which we attempt to navigate the unknown. There are the tall-masted schooners of religion: slow, ponderous, regal with tradition and luxuriantly outfitted by the generosity of its passengers.

We are fascinated by the unknown, and we fear it - and we are obsessed with attempting to chart its waters. As a society we may have even lost our ability to appreciate the voyage, so intent, as many of us are, on knowing the precise time we will arrive in parts unknown.

The undiscovered country we are navigating today is the year 2012, and though we are running out of days upon which to speculate, in many ways we are just as "in the dark" about how the year will end and what it all means as we were in January.

It is hard to find a middle path on an ocean of uncharted waters, but our own research vessel has logged a number of interesting observations about this interesting year.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE EMAILED OR MAILED TO: Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546.

and though our attention spans are short we might still remember the storms, the floods, the droughts and the extremes of weather we saw in 2012.

Another truth revealed by our journey into the unknown is a truth which may be apocalyptic to many who want to believe that a silent majority still exists in this country of conservative white people clinging to the values of Mayberry.

Many vessels will sail on into 2013 in full regalia, celebrating the populist victory of Barack Obama and believing that hope and change will safely guide them into the future.

For the many thousands of waterlogged, camping out in their own homes, waiting for government help that will never come, the truth that government is no more capable after Sandy than it was after Katrina will be an inconvenient truth.

Community Calendar

American Legion Post 23 meets 1st Tuesday of each month at 6:30 PM at VFW Post 7807, Sunnyside Rd., Hiawassee.

Towns County Water Board Meeting 3rd Monday of each month at 7 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. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.

Towns County Republican Party meets at 6:30 PM the 2nd Thursday of each month at Daniels Steak House. For more info call 706-379-1371.

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.

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.

Board of Voter Registrars meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 4:30 p.m., Courthouse.

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



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

Life's foundation stone

There can be no "government of the people", "by the people", and "for the people" unless the people are right. That means that the foundation must be built upon truth.



"Sometimes it's a fine line between being green and being lazy!"

our children to accept error, falsehood and deception without any questions. We will doom and damn this generation if we do not teach them to probe, analyze, dissect, questioning and be relentless in seeking and searching for the truth.

He that forsakes the truth of God forsakes the God of truth! (Romans 2:25)

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