

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Hiwassee (A-ya-wa-se)

Spring time came to the mountains
And the Great Spirit was redoing all
The Cherokee gathered in their village
They were listening to their chief's recall.
They came from the far North, he said
One of the five civilized tribal bands
Marching south to the Blue Ridges
Led by the Great Spirit to new lands.
The Chief recalled how they came
How they named all the new places
Then carved legends and tracks on rocks
Telling of animals with new faces.
They thought highly of the deer
That provided so much for the tribe
Food, clothing andoccasins to be many
Beyond the chief's ability to describe.
Now the chief's wife was to deliver
So all were waiting for the day
And the time was fast approaching
Finally a girl was born the Indian way.
The mother looked upon her baby girl
And her whole body gave a shiver.
She was to become a special person
As her namesake would deliver.
She had lovely dark brown eyes
And her hair was as black as coal
When she smiled, which was often,
Everyone could feel it in their soul.
She was named for the young deer
A spotted little fawn so neat
That traipsed through the forest at play
And to see her was a special treat.
The chief being so very proud
Called all to his daughter, to see
For he knew many braves one day
Would want to marry A-ya-wa-se.
She studied very hard and soon
All seven clans were in her memory clear
However the principle one she thought
Was her own Clan of the Deer.
Thus she became a beautiful maiden
Loved by the whole Cherokee Nation
To honor her they named many things
This to them was a great elation.
A-ya-wa-se became known near and far
All the braves wanted her hand
To move her totem to their family
And increase the spirit of their clan.
When the pioneers arrived they found
Many rivers, streams and Indian towns
And most with Indian names already
So they adapted them within bounds.
And now as we look about when we travel
We see HIAWASSEE every where we go
It's all because of a young Indian maiden
Who lived so many long years ago.

By: Roy Chastain

T(Jan5,11)SH

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

"I awake and find myself
lonely in the vast world. After
many an inebriating farewell
cup, I come to my senses. The
slanting moon on the wax is
shaped like a crescent." -Hô
Xuân Hương

I have always liked the
idea of the twelve days of
Christmas. I am reluctant to
take down the Christmas tree
and all the decorations so
painstakingly arranged, prefer-
ring to leave them up and
glittering at least until Epiph-
any. Driving around my old
neighborhood in the suburbs
of Gainesville last night and
enjoying the decorations still
visible, I was happy to find
that quite a few people seem to
share the same reluctance. A
perfectly green and functional
Christmas tree tossed to the
curb, to me is a sad sight, all
the expectation and joy once
surrounding the icon of our
holiday season, now headed
for the land fill.

Our time on this earth is
so fleeting, the older I get, the
more I rage against the ma-
chine we have created which
seems to require that the vast
majority of our waking mo-
ments be consumed by the
grueling pursuit of digits to
pay for widgets. Our celebra-
tions and moments of vacation
and renewal are few and far
between in comparison to our
hours of work and worry, not
to mention the commute in
between. Our moments of rest
are disturbed by the constant
background noise of infor-
mation and drama. Ancient
societies that we now consider
"primitive" worked far fewer
hours than their more sophis-
ticated descendants.

What is it that drives
us to press our flesh to the
grindstone as it strips away
the days of our lives in ef-
forts which, now more than
ever, enrich the few while
barely sustaining the many?
Perhaps it is the very real fear
of finding ourselves adrift in a
society which has replaced the
cultural obligation of caring
for the poor, the sick and the
elderly with an institutional,
governmental substitute that
is more effective at making
insurance and drug companies
profitable than it is in provid-
ing quality care.

Perhaps it is the as-
cendancy of the competition
paradigm. Millions of Chinese
people work like insects,
flogged by fears of failing to
compete with the Americans.
Their party bosses grow rich
in the same way as our own
corporate masters. Americans

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 ap-
pear 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, Hiwassee, GA 30546.
Our email address: tche-
rald@windstream.net. Let-
ters 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 defama-
tory or in poor taste. Letters
should address issues of gen-
eral interest, such as politics,
the community, environment,
school issues, etc. Letters
opposing the views of pre-
vious comments are wel-
comed; however, letters can-
not be directed at, nor name
or ridicule previous writers.
Letters that recognize good
deeds of others will be con-
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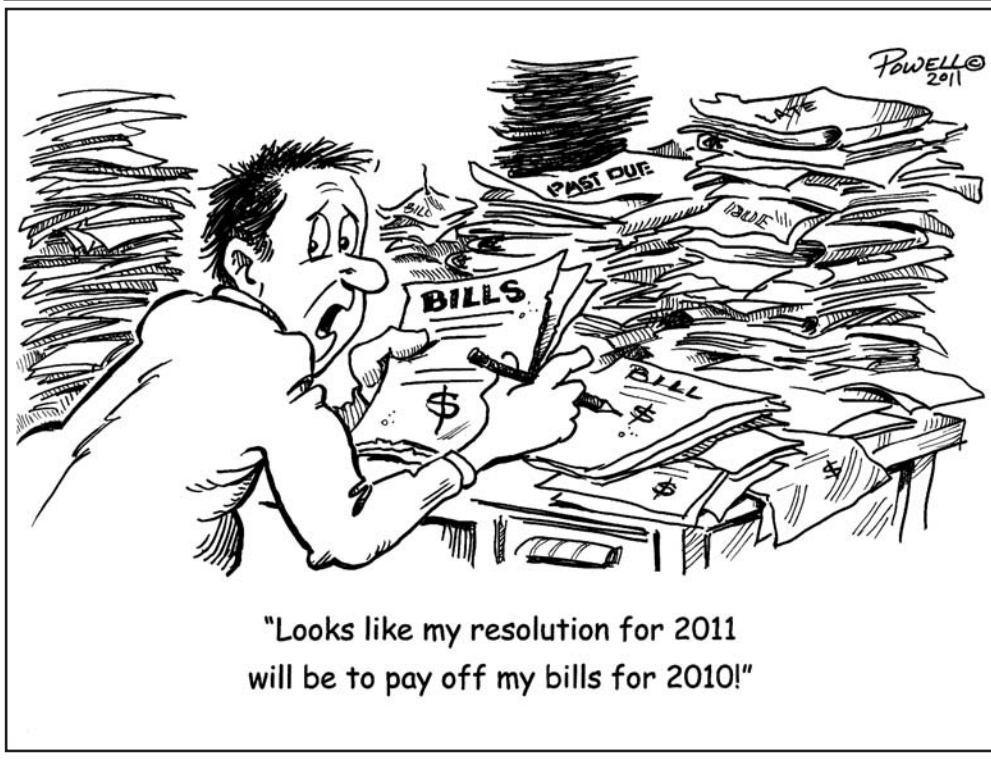


"IT'S
ON MY
MIND.."
Danny
H. Parris

A little Heaven in 2011

Are you dissatisfied
with your life? Do you feel
that your life is filled with
discord? Well, we have
been blest with a new year
and by God's grace we are
able to change life's direc-
tion and enjoy some heaven
while still on earth. But to
do this we must honestly
evaluate just who we are,
what we are, and who we
want to be and how to get
there. John Stewart Mill's
whole life was changed
when he asked himself this
question: "Suppose I attain
what I am now pursuing,
what sort of man shall I
be at the end?" A probing
question indeed and one that
needs to be asked by each
of us. The mightiest works
of history have been wrought
by men and women who
had in themselves a divine
dissatisfaction. Browning
believed that a divine dis-
satisfaction, when properly
harnessed, would keep us
ever moving to something
better when he said, "A
man's reach should exceed
his grasp, else what's a
heaven for?" To settle for
the "same old, same old"
habits of life will turn your
spirit gray before your hairs.
It was the Wright brothers
who believed that airplanes

would one day be benefi-
cial to mankind. (A man named
Marshall Foch said in 1911,
that airplanes were nice toys
but had no military value.)
Horace Rachman said in
1903 that the automobile
was only a fad, but Henry
Ford believed it would be
future transportation. Dar-
ryl F. Zanuck said in 1946
that television would lose
the market after six months.
Kenneth Olsen said in 1977
that there was no reason for
anyone to have a computer,
but years before, Alexander
Graham Bell was dissatis-
fied with communication
and look what he put into
motion! As we begin this
New Year do you have any
plans to bring about any
positive changes in your
life? All of us should. In-
fact, if our world improves
at all in this coming year
then I must improve and
you must improve. It is true
that the biggest room in this
old world is the room for
improvement. If we experi-
ence a little heaven in 2011
and help others to do so, we
need to be touched by and
be in touch with the Mas-
ter. Then we can sing with
the poet "All my life was
wrecked by sin and strife,
discord filled my heart with
pain. Jesus swept across the
broken strings, stirred the
slumbering chords again.
Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, sweet-
est name I know, fills my
every longing, keeps me
singing as I go" (Luther B.
Bridgers).



"Looks like my resolution for 2011
will be to pay off my bills for 2010!"

Community Calendar

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 Hiwassee at 2 p.m.
Towns County Democratic Party meets the 2nd Thursday of every month. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.
Towns County Republican Party meets the 4th Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Daniels Steak House. Dinner at 6 p.m., 706-896-7281.
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.
Hiwassee 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 Hiwassee River Valley Kennel Club meetings are held at 7 p.m. the 1st Monday of each month at Brother's Restaurant on Hwy 64 in Murphy, NC. Call President Kit Miracle: 706-492-5253 or Peggy Moorman: 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.
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 Hiwassee at 5 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiwassee, GA 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org
Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:45 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Recreational Dept. Call Eden at 706-896-6921.
Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG) meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, located at 308 Big Sky Drive (behind the Holiday Inn), Hiwassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m. & the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtnregartscraftsguild.org. mtnregartscraftsguild@hotmail.com.
VFW Post #7807 Fish Fry will be 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 4:30-7 p.m., \$9 a plate, all you can eat.
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 Quinlan at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains.
Alcoholics Anonymous: 24-hour phone line 828-837-4440.
Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church office at 706-745-2469 for more information.
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 6 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Lee (828) 389-0924.
We do Family Oral History of all of our residents. If you have not had your family history recorded and would like to do so, please call the Towns County Historical Society at 706-896-1060.
Fall Storytime at Towns County Public Library Thursdays at 1 P.M.
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.
Mountain Coin Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Blairsville Civic Center. Doors open at 5:30. Program and auction begins at 6:30. For more information, call Ye Old Coin Shop, 706-379-1488.



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

Q: Dr. Don, I worry a lot about the kids my children hang out with. I don't like their music and I don't like their language. Also, I don't much like the way they dress. Can you give me some ideas about what to do?
A: I'll try. A lot of parents tell me they are concerned about their kids' peers. Fact is, as parents we don't have a lot of options here. We can tell our kids who we want them to choose for friends, but it's almost impossible to enforce it.
But let me give you some courage. First, your parenting well will give you a far greater influence on the character and values of your kids than their peers will ever have. Second, peer influence is of surprisingly short duration. It is felt most keenly during middle school; that's why I talk so fervently about building values into our kids during that third-to-thirteenth birthday move. By the time our kids move into their teens we need to have helped them become joyously comfortable with what our family deems valuable.
Third, kids tend to be drawn toward peers most like themselves. That means we tend to be most comfortable with those with whom we have

the most in common. Remember Mom's statement, "Birds of a feather..." Seldom does the youngster from a healthy, happy home suddenly sprint into the alley and run off with a drug-addicted motorcycle gang.
One more suggestion: Invite that peer group over to your house as often as possible. Get acquainted. Rent a video. Order in pizza. Shoot hoops in the driveway. Let some of your rub off on them. Baffle your kids with your consistent joy. Distinguish between what you don't like (their music?) and what could be hurtful. Bite your lip about what you don't like; wisely coach them around the other stuff.
Will your kids be influenced by some blue-haired, multi-pierced specimen that doesn't shower? Influenced to test the rules perhaps, but be assured that the group doesn't have the power to overwrite the basic family values you have been working on. Why? Because as you have drawn the boundaries you have maintained their respect. They know you're on their side. You have positioned yourself in their world as a parent with deep love and strong leadership skills.
Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@rarekids.net

Towns County Herald

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