DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor

There is a device on your home that is causing health problems. This is the new smart meter installed by Blue Ridge Electric without any warning of the dangers involved. I did not know what a smart meter was or I would never have let them on my property. However, I began investigating when my electric bill doubled after installation. These meters emit electromagnetic radiation and cause nausea, headaches, sleeplessness etc and in time destroy DNA and lead to cancer. They are particularly dangerous because of constant exposure since they are mounted on the home. RF levels are predicted to be substantially elevated within a few feet to tens of feet from the meter. For instance it is dangerous to have a crib or a bed next to the wall where the meter is. There is a big scandal unfolding in California over these meters. The counties of Santa Cruz, Marin and Mendocino and the cities of Watsonville, Fairfax and Rio Dell have criminalized smart meter installations. They are calling also for the removal of Michael Peevey president of the CPUC and former exec with Edison who had a cozy relationship with the utilities that contributed to the San Bruno disaster. These meters can arc. There have been a number of documented cases of smart meters starting house fires. Also these meters can be used to invade your privacy. They can be read at any time. They know when you are home, when you are taking a shower when you are on vacation etc and they can sell the information. Utility records have proved that police used the information to bust marijuana operations. The Supreme Court has ruled that "In the home... is held safe from prying government eyes".

Ruth Nelson



In a permissive culture such as ours, the very word "obedience" instantly raises the blood pressure of some. It smacks of oppression and control, manipulation and coercion. But in any functioning entity the members must respond appropriately to the rightful authority figures or there is chaos.

The citizens of this free nation cannot set their own speed limit on the highway. A person convicted of a crime is not free to determine whether which we are obligated, for our or not he will accept the sentence. If you check a book out community's, to disciple and of the library, it is not optional whether or not you return it. In every facet of our lives we are subject to appropriate authority. Otherwise the organization self-destructs. Thus it is with the family. I probably couldn't get 100 percent agreement on this, but it is true nonetheless: A 35-year-old mom knows more about what is best for a 9-year-old third-grader than the 9-year-old third-grader does. If the 9-year-old thirdgrader—or the 15-year-old sophomore – decides that he/she is going to disregard those who are in rightful authority and make his/her own ing questions to: DrDon@ decisions, it compromises the rarekids.net.

strength of the family, and it lays the groundwork for serious relationship problems in the future for the youngster.

The decade of 3-to-13 is what my colleague, John Rosemond, calls the decade of discipline. Incidentally, discipline is not a synonym for punishment. Discipline comes from "discipling," teaching, nurturing a follower. Pre-3, obedience is only a delicious dream. Beginning at 3, and lasting about 10 years, is that window during sake, for the child's, and for the teach and nurture. "Few rules" is the rule. Simple, but enforced. "Because I said so and I'm the mommy (or daddy)" is an acceptable answer. You are the rightfully constituted authority. Any teacher will tell you that your child will do better in school if when they arrive there they are experienced at responding well to authority. Any employer will tell you that the new hire who listens and is respectfully responsive to those in charge will do better. Obedience. It helps produce Rare Kids; Well Done. Submit your parent-

The Middle Path

When we hear the word, "dependency," we may think of drug and alcohol addiction, which are the forms of dependency most often depicted in popular culture. Dependency is defined as being "abnormally tolerant to and dependent on something that is psychologically or physically habit-forming." This definition covers an extensive territory.

Some researchers have followed dependency and addiction into the realm of the complex chemical reactions which take place inside the brain and the endocrine system. They have identified neuropeptides, chemicals inside the brain, which are produced in response to certain drugs. In the addictive response, brain cells flooded by the same neuropeptides develop specific receptors for those molecules. When these receptors do not receive the chemicals for which they were designed, withdrawal symptoms occur.

Those of us who are not addicted to drugs (including alcohol and nicotine) might easily set aside this cautionary tale from the frontiers of the human brain, but in doing so we would lose a key component in understanding our own behavior and the behavior of our children. Drugs are not the only things that produce an addictive response inside the brain. Emotions also produce neuropeptides which build receptors on brain cells.

We can all in a moment's time think of people we know who are habitually angry or negative, people who are "addicted to drama" or who always seem capable of creating a stressful situation where none existed before. We might look no further than the nearest mirror to find an example of someone who has modified their brain chemistry for dependency.

Several times in this forum we have discussed the possibility that our way of life can produce addiction to constant external stimulation. Personally, I have looked with pity upon increasing numbers of young people (and adults)



Surrounded by books, encircled by projects in need of completion, with a pile of dirty laundry to wash (some of which was parked on top of exercise equipment in need of attention), tax forms in need of filling out, not to mention an astounding wilderness of stars and a dusty telescope, I chose instead to fret over being "cut off" from the "world." I didn't realize my own addictive response before an hour and a half of unplugging phone lines, rebooting modems and routers and a four mile drive to the nearest hilltop capable of gaining the first bar of reception on my cell phone.

As in all addictions, there is hope for those of us dependent on technology and information. By practicing new behaviors we can build new receptors in our brains which support healthier choices. We can even choose to "not do," discovering once again the practice of meditation and prayer and just "being" which is becoming so alien to our culture. With these words I am shutting down my computer for the day and pulling on my boots for a hike.



Preaching & Plowing

I suppose that most folks are more familiar with Hee-Haw than they are with gee haw. All of these warm spring days bring back memories of an echoing cadence of gee haw. I grew up about one mile out of McCaysville, Georgia and Copperhill, Tennessee on the Mineral Bluff highway. If you have driven through this section of Fannin County you recognize that this area is not a thriving agricultural community. However, in my growing up days most all of our neighbors had mules or horses and a plot of land that they tended. Both my grandfathers plowed a plot of land and planted a good-sized garden. Each of my grandfathers and their horses had similar personalities. My grandfather Pope and his horse were slow and gentle. My grandfather Parris and his horse were both feisty and headlong. My grandfather Pope didn't have a lot to say, even to his horse. When he plowed he spoke softly to his horse gee (right) haw (left). He didn't make a big fuss when plowing. My grandfather Parris was quite different. When he plowed the whole valley knew he was plowing. He screamed at the top of his lungs gee (right) haw (left). In fact, the best I can remember he had a few other choice words that he occasionally addressed to his horse. Just across the highway and branch was a neighbor who always had a harvest in abundance. He had served in the military and when he plowed he gave orders to his horse like a mili-

tary leader. In fact, he plowed his horse like he was fighting a battle. His commands came in staccato fashion. There was absolutely no pause between gee or haw. His was just one continuous cadence. I am sure that his horse was a neurotic. As a little barefoot boy I loved to hear those gees and haws from my grandfathers. I enjoyed waking behind them as my bare feet sank into the warm freshly turned earth. The smell of the broken earth was a special odor that lingers in my nostrils until this day. I have often thought about the similarities of plowing and preaching. My grandfathers and my neighbor always had a pretty productive harvest, but their plowing personalities were different. Over the years I have observed different preaching styles. Some preachers were soft and gentle; some were feisty and headlong; some militaristic in their approach. I have always stood amazed in God's presence in the way He has used different personalities to bring forth a spiritual harvest. The key to a good harvest is proper preparation of the soil and the quality of the seed planted. The life is not in the plower nor the planter, but in the seed. In the years of my ministry I have wanted to be soft and gentle but at times I was feisty and headlong, perhaps at times militaristic. But God always supplied me with His Everlasting Word as seed to be sown. The reason that I have been privileged to enjoy some wonderful harvests was not because of my plowing, but because of God's power in the seed. I hope that in my preaching I have given instructions to gee far more than to haw. We need to keep preaching for folks to go right. There are some sounds of the past I would enjoy hearing again like gee and haw.



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who feel that they must remain constantly "connected" to our ever growing matrix of communication. I have spent evenings with people who sent text messages during our conversation and who

continued to do so during dinner and even while watching a movie at a theater. I have

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 ED-**ITOR 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.



"I was all for deep cuts in government... until I remembered that we are the government !"

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 Hiawassee 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 Com*mission* 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 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 Elec*tions* 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 So*ciety* meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 5 p.m. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiawassee, 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), Hiawassee. 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.

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) meets the 3rd Monday of each month at various area restaurants. For information call John Ouinlan at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/ chapter/blueridgemountains. Alcoholics Anonymous: 24

www.ngatu692.com.

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 PM.

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.