

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



Letters to The Editor

Burglary in Pine Crest Subdivision

On January 8, 2010, during the snow-ice storm, Pine Crest Subdivision was visited by two (2) burglars at 4:30 a.m. All stolen items were recovered; the interest was items from automobiles.

One of the sheriffs fell during the bad weather and hurt his knee. We hope he is back on duty with no side effects. We, the residents want to thank the Towns County Sheriff's team for a job well done. It is comforting to know that we have such a fine organization to protect and secure our neighborhood. Things have really changed since Sheriff Clinton came to Towns County.

I might, also, mention that Pine Crest is a "Neighborhood Watch" subdivision. This was instrumental in nabbing the suspects.

Carl S. Schultz
President, Pine Crest Association

Letter to the Editor

It was 2 years ago, in 2008, that the county water department marked off Ramey Mountain Road for new water lines and hydrants.

From that point the county did lines and hydrants all over the county and saved Ramey for the final phase. For the past winter the very good crew they assembled has worked hard in difficult conditions to finish the project.

The appearance of the mountain shows this seasonal effort.

Road signs are helter skelter and blown by the wind. The road and many driveways have been breeched. Road edges broken down and ruptured. Drainage ditches are soft and mud filled.

Rock piles appear randomly to slow washouts from rain. The mountain is a mess. The work continues.

We have had outages of power, T.V. and water through the entire winter from unanticipated accidents. The lines are in and this week they are being used for the first time. Remaining work includes attaching the new lines to each home. Currently the new lines attach to the old lines to bring us water.

One hydrant was installed at the bottom, I am unable to learn what happened to the other 18 hydrants scheduled to be installed back in 2008. I have had no information that hydrants will solve anything or that the home insurance company would consider a rate reduction if we had them. Related to this is how well the fire department will do if a fire occurs given the addition of hydrants on the mountain.

Meanwhile the original estimate offered by water chairman Mitchell back in 2008 was for \$ 1.5 million for county water lines and hydrants. To be paid for by water line customers.

Overall supervision has been lacking, Mr. Mitchell doesn't keep regular office hours. Other county departments are looking on and calculating when the thing will be done and who will do the clean up. As a future payee I can only hope there has been some retainage established for this purpose.

R.B. Bryant

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

Banks do not manufacture. They do not produce food or mine raw materials. They do not research to generate technical and scientific innovation. Banks make money by tapping into the flow of money and diverting a portion of it for their own use. Technically this is known as "usury," and in the early days of Christianity it was considered "detestable to God and man, damned by the sacred canons and contrary to Christian charity." I'll bet some of you didn't know about the "socialist" beginnings of the Christian church.

We can lament the extent to which the love of money rules our world, but I will not be the first one in line to burn my checkbook and walk the earth with a wool cloak and a beggar's bowl. Our system of finance is far from perfect, but it is what it is and we are stuck with it until our species matures past the need for greed. Until that day comes, and I'm not holding my breath, banks also build homes and businesses and help people to live out their retirement years with some security.

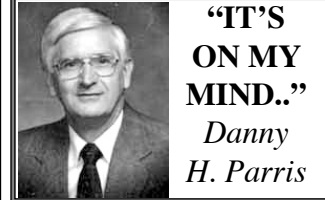
The problem is that over time, we have allowed some banks to become gigantic global entities which not only lend money, but gamble it in the stock market; entities "too big to fail" which blur the line between government and privately held corporations. These are entities which have become adept at "diverting" money from the commerce of working people on an unprecedented scale. Thanks to George W. Bush, Barack Hussein Obama and the Congress of the United States, these banks now divert money directly from the people of the United States and their descendants yet unborn.

In a different day and age we might have remedied this situation with the democratic process which has preserved our Republic for 234 years, but that system itself is corrupt and it seems that no matter whom we elect, the result

is the same: corporations control the government, if not directly then by proxy with a permanent class of politicians steeped in and behold to corporate culture. What, then, can we do to help balance this situation?

There is one simple measure we can take that will not only serve to help protect our personal wealth from further manipulation and speculation, but it will "vote" our disapproval with a voice louder than any heard at the polls. We can simply withdraw our money from savings, investment and retirement accounts held by multinational corporations and transfer it into accounts held by local and regional banks. We are not yet required by law to do business with Wells Fargo and Bank of America, to say nothing of Goldman Sachs and the like. Every service that is available from these gigantic leeches is available in some form from a locally owned and operated enterprise, whether that is a savings account, credit card, credit union or investment account.

Locally we have some very viable options in banks and other financial institutions that have served our communities for generations, and there are resources to help us find other alternatives. An excellent resource for finding a local bank or a credit union can be found in the World Wide Web at moveyourmoney.info. This website is also served by the group, Institutional Risk Analytics, which grades banks according to risk factors. Moving money into smaller banks not only helps to disempower the entities responsible for the global economic crash, but it helps to stimulate the economy at a community level – and overall, the penalties and fees charged by smaller banks are considerably smaller, so you get to keep more of your own money.



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

D-Y-I

I belong to that group of stubborn people known as do-it-yourselfers. When my wife tells me we need to call someone to make repairs around the house I always say, "Oh, there's no need to do that. I can fix it." But what she means is "I want it taken care of before next year." About two or three years ago she wanted a new water faucet for her bathroom. She picked it out and it has been taking up space in my shop for all this time. A few days ago I decided to install the faucet for her and repair a leaky toilet. Now I have not done a lot of plumbing but I figured this job wouldn't take more than a couple of hours. Besides I have heard that plumbers don't come cheap. There is an old joke about the doctor who called the plumber to do some repair work. Shocked when he saw the bill, the doctor said, "Man, you make more money than I do." The plumber said, "Yeah, I know. I used to be a doctor." Anyway, I wanted to update the feed lines from metal pipes to flexible lines. After doing the necessary measurements I hurried to the hardware store to purchase the materials needed to install the new faucet. After removing the old faucet and putting in the new one; and connecting the lines to the new faucet I discovered the lines lacked one-fourth of an inch reaching the supply lines. To make a long story longer I had to return the new lines to the store where I purchased them. As luck would have it they did not have the next size, so off to another hardware store, etc. To sum this up, after two days, three trips

into Blairsville, visiting three hardware stores, working in a space where a chipmunk could barely squeeze into, replacing not only the faucet and lines, but also a new drain line because I made the old one leak, and with a contorted body, a busted finger, cramps in my legs, bruised arms and a sore back, I have come to the conclusion that God is punishing me for waiting so long to replace my wife's faucet. Furthermore, with the mileage driven, gas consumed, the pain inflicted to my physical body, the mental anguish and the amount of time it took, I am convinced that I could have hired a plumber and a doctor with far less expense. There are two lessons to this story. Number one, you shouldn't procrastinate. My job would have been easier and cheaper two years ago. Number 2, sometimes don't do it yourself. In fact, there are some things you can't do yourself. You must have help from an outside source. As my pastor said a few weeks ago, "If you find a turtle sitting on a fence post you know immediately that he didn't get there by himself." Sometimes we are stubborn and want to do things ourselves but we keep procrastinating. We say we are going to live better lives. We are going to straighten out our lives. We are going to get right with God. There is an old legend that tells of demons plotting to destroy men's souls. One said, "Let's tell them the Bible's a fable." Another said, "Let's tell them there's no God, nor life after death." The third one said, "Let's tell them there's no hurry to get right with God," and that's the plan they are using to this day.

The Bible says "Now is the accepted time." Furthermore, you can't straighten out your life. Only Christ can. He will do that for you today. You will ask Him, won't you?

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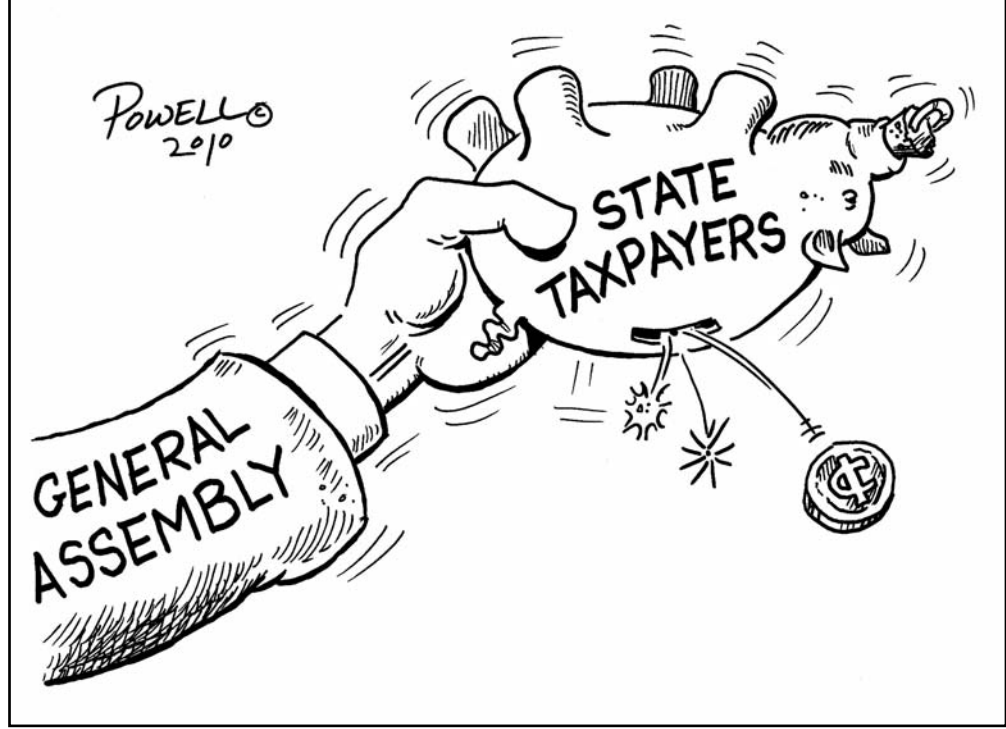
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