

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

To our community

Chatuge Regional Hospital is currently undergoing the Transformation to Electronic Medical Records as required by the Federal Government. This will be of great enhancement for our patients, our doctors, our hospital and most importantly our community as a whole. Due to the extensive preparation required for these enhancements, our annual Health Fair, which is usually held in the spring, will be held on August 14, 2011.

We deeply regret any inconvenience this one-time re-scheduling may cause.

Feel free to contact me for any questions or for further information. 706-896-7162.

Thank you,
Machelle Lovell, RN

Director of Nursing, Chatuge Regional Hospital

Thank you Towns County

Although economic times are tight for most all of us, the citizens of Towns County showed their generosity during the first weekend of April. With many Lions Club volunteers stationed at various locations around the county, you donated \$3,077.77 in just two days. Just what are the funds used for?

During its sixty years of existence, the Lighthouse's services have grown to include: full eye exams, eyeglasses, eye surgeries, digital hearing aids, and vision and hearing screenings.

The reach of the Lighthouse extends across the state; in 2010, services were provided in 158 out of 159 Georgia counties. The Lighthouse facilitated over 300 eye surgeries last year, and provided over 5,400 eyeglasses or exams to 3,556 Georgians. In addition, 986 people received 1,810 hearing aids through our new digital aid program. To be eligible for services, patients must be uninsured or underinsured and fall below 200% of the Federal Poverty Guideline. The majority of Lighthouse patients, 66 percent, fall below 100% of the FPG.

For information on these services, contact any Lions Club members, or visit www.lionslighthouse.org.

Laurie Main
Public Relations, Towns County Lions Club



White Cane Chairman Bob Ford at the McDonald's intersection on the first day of the drive, Friday, April 8.

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

During the years I worked as a wilderness guide, I spent many more nights sleeping on the ground than in my own bed at home. Three months in the field was followed by about a month spent at home, and apart from the occasional visit to our base camp for re-supply, all of that three months was spent outdoors. In the winter months if you spend enough time outside, your body becomes remarkably acclimatized to the cold. Fifty degrees is shirt-sleeve weather.

There were adjustments to make during the time spent at home after an extended stay away from technology. The bed was too soft so I slept on the floor (and my back has thanked me ever since.) The television was rarely on: after weeks of natural sounds, quiet conversation and silence, the mindless chatter was insufferable. Electric heat made the house too hot and stuffy, and the electric bill for the month after a return from the wilderness was among the lowest of the year.

Throughout the years that I lived closer to nature and less dependent on technology, I was not particularly aware that I was living as the majority of the world's population lives. This morning an unlikely source brought it home to me when I woke up to see Spanish moss hanging outside the bedroom window of this rented vacation home.

During the 1990's the wilderness school which employed me ran expeditions for adjudicated youth down the Ocmulgee, Oconee and Altamaha River systems in the winter months. Our canoes, which put in just south of Macon, GA, would travel over 300 miles through some of the wildest and most remote areas of the southeast to our takeout location near Darien, GA. Spanish moss is a constant companion in the blackwater swamps of South Georgia, and for groups of unruly teenagers unaccustomed to budgeting time, energy or industrially produced paper products, it was often a replacement for those paper products when they ran out.

For a moment this morning when I woke up and Spanish Moss was the first thing I saw, as has happened

so many times from inside a sleeping bag, the memories of the past were incongruous with my king sized mattress, the television left on all night, the sound of the coffee maker coming from the kitchen and the behemoth heat pump humming outside, just on the other side of the thin shell separating me from the great outdoors.

The shell that separates us all from that great outdoors is thinner than most of us realize, and we fight to maintain it. The battleground extends from boardrooms to the halls of Congress to the deserts of Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya and about 140 places around the world where we have military bases. The fight is about oil, minerals and raw materials that we forcibly extract from the earth to be consumed in the bonfires of our vanity. The fight is about maintaining at all costs the cancerous philosophy of growth and consumption which supports that thin shell, and we are destined to lose this battle.

The war (and notice how much of our language is framed in terms of struggle and violence) may yet be won. In our own rural area I read headlines of solar farms online and under construction. Innovation is alive and well as new technologies make our energy consumption more efficient. But as in all wars, there will be casualties. Not to single out a particular automaker, but our "ram tough" insistence of compensating our sense of powerlessness with giant hauling and pulling conveyances which brag about getting a measly 20 mpg - is ram stubborn and ram stupid, and this attitude permeates our entire energy economy. Additionally, we have an aging population less able to adapt to change. Personally, I would have a hard time returning to a tent and a sleeping bag and I am just as fond of comfort and convenience as anyone else. Our parents fought to preserve freedom and to give their children better opportunities. We will do the same, but my own generation will also fight to keep the air conditioner on and the gas tank full, and this fight is not going to be pretty.



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

What think ye of Christ?

Holy Week extends from Palm Sunday through Easter Sunday and Christians all over the world turn their thoughts to Jesus and to the events that took place in Jerusalem over two thousand years ago. In fact, the entire world is faced with the question, "What think ye of Christ?" This was the question that Jesus directed to the Pharisees in Matthew's gospel (Matt. 22:42). This is a personal question. "What do you think of Christ?" All of us must answer this probing question. As you consider this question I would like to share with you what others thought of Jesus. Let's ask God what He thinks of Christ and He says, "This is my beloved son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:17). If you ask the angels in heaven their response is, "Unto you is born... a savior which is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11). Let's ask John the Baptist and he declares, "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29). Ask impetuous Peter and he cries out, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God" (Matt 16:16). Disbelieving Thomas, when asked his opinion would loudly announce, "My Lord, and my God" (John 20:28). The poor sinful Samaritan woman who had lived with six different men, weeping invites us to "Come see a man.. Is not this the Christ?" (John 4:29). Nathanael, a man in whom was no guile, testified of Jesus, "Rabbi, thou art the Son of God" (John 1:49). Paul, the forgiven persecutor of Christ's followers, gladly proclaims his revelation of Christ when he confesses, "I count all things loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord" (Phil. 3:8). John the

Apostle, records in the last book of the Bible that Jesus is "The bright and morning star" (Rev. 22:16). That Roman Centurion helping to carry out the execution of Christ declared with a broken heart, "Truly this man was the Son of God" (Mark 15:39). The Ethiopian Eunuch when asked what he believed joyfully confesses that "Jesus Christ is the Son of God" (Acts 8:37). Pilate, the governor, weak and spineless admits that "I find no fault at all" (John 18:38). Lastly, the very one who lived and traveled with Jesus for three years, and finally betrayed Him for the price of a slave, Judas, the name that makes you shudder, bitterly wails out, "I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood" (Matt. 27:4). The evidence is overwhelming. Jesus is God's Son, human-kind's only Savior. The witnesses in heaven and in earth, both friends and foes, testify that Jesus is the Son of God. Even the devils believe and tremble (James 2:19). It is important that all of these witnesses believed and confessed. But what they believed won't help you. In the beginning, I said this was a personal question. Your eternal destiny depends upon what you think of Christ. In light of the evidence and witnesses what is your decision? During Holy Week or Passion Week God demonstrated the great lengths to which He would go to forgive our sins. This Sunday as we worship and celebrate Easter we need to remember that this is not just an event on our calendar but the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ should stir the strongest feelings of worship from our souls. Easter is the experience of love conquering hate, light triumphing over darkness, good defeating evil, and life finally, fully and forever demolishing death because Jesus is the resurrection and the life. Because He lives we live and sing, "I serve a risen savior!" "Hallelujah, What a Savior!"

RARE KIDS; WELL DONE

By Don Jacobsen

What should parents do with those annoying little behaviors they feel don't necessarily deserve to be punished, but that Toby really ought to get over? Like running through the house. Like jumping on the furniture. Like using his outdoor voice when he's inside. This list could get to be a long one!

Let me suggest a helpful strategy that works, from about age 4 or so on up to about 10 or 11.

I call it the "Billboard System." Mom and Dad describe the plan to Toby, then post it on the refrigerator "billboard" so he can see it. You'll need a full sheet of paper, five small pieces of colored paper, a calendar of the current month and a magnetic clip to stick the whole thing to the refrigerator.

On the sheet of paper list the two or three behaviors you really want Toby to leave behind (no more than that at a time). If he isn't reading yet you can draw stick figures of the target behaviors.

Number the colored slips 1 through 5. When you're ready, call Toby to the fridge and explain the program. Here is how it works...

Each time Toby forgets

and violates one of the target behaviors, one of the colored slips is taken away and put on top of the fridge. He gets three "free passes," when he loses only a ticket but nothing more. However, on the fourth violation, he loses not only a ticket, he loses a privilege for the day - something he likes to do. Maybe it's TV, maybe it's playing outside with his friends, maybe it's his bike, maybe it's...well, you get it.

No warnings, no threats, no negotiation...no "Toby, if you do that again I'm going to take away another ticket." Toby is taken to the billboard and it is explained that he disobeyed so he lost another ticket. Fourth ticket, he also loses a privilege. Fifth ticket gone, another privilege gone. If Toby loses them all five in one day he loses not only the privileges for the rest of the day, he goes to bed early. Next day a new batch of tickets, privileges restored.

After 30-days see how Toby gets along without the billboard. If he has a relapse start the 30-days over. It's simple but trust me, it works.

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

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 EDITOR SHOULD BE EMAILED 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.

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 3rd Thursday of every month. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.

Towns County Republican Party meets the 2nd Thursday 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.

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 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 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, mtnregartsandcraftsguild@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 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.

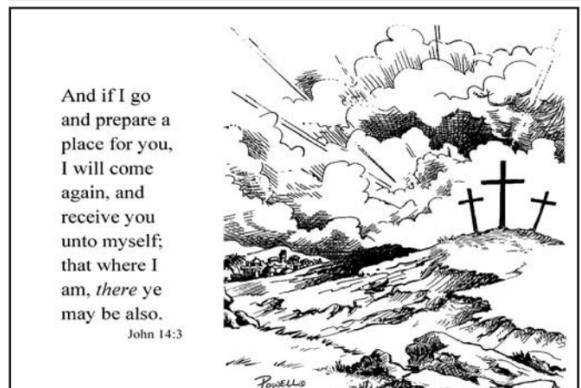
Mountain Magic Table Tennis Club meets 6 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Lee (828) 389-0924.

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 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.



Community Calendar

OWN A BUSINESS? NEED TO ADVERTISE?

Contact the
Towns County Herald
706-896-4454

Towns County Herald

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