

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY
OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:

Every few days I pass the proposed Lowe's location and see no evidence of progress or construction. If you believe what is being said around the county, it all hinges on the ability of the site to obtain the proper water and sewer.

Is this a victim on the apparent on-going differences between the City of Hiawassee and the Towns Water and Sewer Authority and their attorneys... I do not propose to know all of the answers, but I do understand the financial ramifications for the county.

Let's suppose for the sake of argument that Lowe's builds a facility for \$10 million dollars. That will provide the county a taxable basis of 40% of that or \$4 million. Assuming a 5 mils ad valorem each for both the county and the school district, each would receive \$20,000 ANNUALLY. Of course that number should be reduced by tax revenues currently collected on the vacant property.

Further, let's assume that Lowe's would provide a minimum of additional \$5 million in additional revenue over what is currently collected in the county for similar products. This would provide the county an additional \$100,000 ANNUALLY in sales tax revenue and \$50,000 for the school district under the SPLOST.

The above does not include the monies that would be received by the approximate 75 new jobs that would be available. Assuming that many may be part time, let's use an annual compensation of \$15,000. that would amount to over \$1.1 million ANNUALLY.

So you can see the importance of all of our elected officials, those on the Towns County Water and Sewer Authority and their related attorneys to settle their business differences and personality conflicts and "get the show on the road."

The people of Towns County deserve it.

Dewaine A. Olson

To the Editor:

We read the article in last week's paper about EMC plans for the new substation. Mr. Satterfield is clearly trying to "sell" us a bill of goods. I think we are all smarter than that.

1) The article never mentions the very important fact that Parcel 52 is directly on Lake Chatuge. This and this alone makes it an inappropriate site for a power substation.

2) Mr. Satterfield spends most of his time talking about why he needs a new substation. The vast majority of Towns County understands and supports his need for the new substation. However, the majority of Towns County is AGAINST placing it on the lake.

3) Mr. Satterfield makes the comment that "substations make great neighbors". Surely he is kidding. A power substation is a large, unattractive steel structure. It does nothing to enhance the scenery, the environment nor the neighborhood.

Mr. Satterfield and the BRMEMC may be about to break ground on the new substation on the shores of Lake Chatuge and there is probably nothing more we can do about it. I only wish the issue would have been handled with more integrity, transparency and professionalism from both TVA and BRMEMC.

Lindley and Mark Fitzgerald

Anticipation!

I keep remembering that while watching the inauguration of our 44th President I was struck with a feeling of anticipation. Not just for the message of hope vs. fear that Barack Obama expressed as a guiding light or mantra for his vision of America's future, that was reassuring to say the least, but it was something else that I found myself looking forward to.

It was the upcoming apologies from those folks in our community that misused the pulpit to spew lies and innuendos about then candidate Obama. Obama the Muslim! Obama the foreign born non-citizen! Obama the Anti-Christ! Obama the unpatriotic anti-American values, non flag saluting, non flag lapel wearing, threat to all that we hold dear as a nation.

I'm hopeful that seeing this well educated, well intentioned, value driven fellow citizen place his hand on the Bible and swear his allegiance to this great country of ours was enough to dissuade the concerns of those parishioners who were unfortunately feed the same message of fear that Jesus and his followers were subjected when he preached his message of change and hope for all humanity.

My intention is not to compare a 21st century politician to Christ but the message for all of us should be the same and deep in their hearts both John McCain and Sarah Palin no doubt feel a little remorse for not rebuking the nature of the "help" that they were receiving from those least tolerant of our religious institutions.

Now that the first 100 days have passed and we not only have not "gone to hell in a hand basket" but are actually coming together as a nation and working to solve the problems and correct the actions and policies of his predecessors maybe it's time for that apology.

Or, maybe it wasn't those issues after all, maybe it wasn't as gray as those "rumors" that were so eagerly spread, maybe it was always really black and white!

**Waiting in Young Harris
 Bob Hearn**

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The Middle Path

by Don Perry

Professor Robin Dunbar is an evolutionary psychologist with the School of Biological Sciences at Liverpool University. Professor Dunbar has done some groundbreaking work in the study of the disproportionately large brains of human beings and other primates. His studies suggest that a large neocortex, the "thinking" part of the brain, is necessary to handle the computations of our complex social lives.

If this relationship is valid then much of my own gray matter is being wasted, as my social life ranges from dinner with a few friends to an occasional trip to Walmart, but the implications of Dunbar's research are interesting in light of the relatively new phenomenon of social networking as seen in online communication schemes such as Facebook, MySpace and Twitter. Dunbar's model suggests that social groups become unsustainable for an individual when numbers in the group exceed certain amounts. For humans, the number 150 is thought to be an average maximum range of persons with whom we can interact consistently; 150 people we can call by their first names and remember some detail of their lives in ongoing acquaintance. The number twelve is thought to be average size of our core group of acquaintances - people with whom we interact on a regular and intimate basis. Surveys among users of the most popular online social networking services are consistent with these projected ranges.

Professor Dunbar's research raises some interesting questions. It hints at a different, a deeper understanding of mankind's long history of conflict and war. Taking away nothing from those of us who view that history in a religious or spiritual context, no matter what one chooses to believe about human beings possessed of a soul, there are some insights to be gained

by examining the behavior and characteristics of the primate mammal vehicles we inhabit. Human beings are inherently clannish. We tend to view ourselves as members of different tribes in increasingly smaller subsets of humanity in general. We are Americans, then Georgians, Towns Countians, (locals or newcomers, if you please), and finally Smiths or Joneses. If we isolated a randomly selected group of people and gave them amnesia, it would not be long before the group invented some way of segregating themselves according to hair or skin color, left or right handedness or lacking any physical variety, some arbitrary political preference. Jonathan Swift's 18th century classic, Gulliver's Travels, stands as a timeless allegory of the absurdity of religious war in his description of two peoples fighting over a preference for cracking open an egg at the big end or the little.

Research implies that our animal natures will always tend to cause us to segregate, if for no other reason than the fact that we are limited by the size and complexity of our brains. When we are exposed to more than a relatively small number of people, we will tend to consider anyone outside that small group as the "other," especially under conditions of stress or hardship. Globalization will ultimately fail because we are not biologically adapted to it - Tower of Babel, anyone? Nationalism will always carry with it an inherent risk of war. If the conclusions drawn by Professor Dunbar and others from decades of research are correct, humans beings by the very structure of their brains are best adapted to living in villages. The verification of these theories must surely come as a blow to our abundant supply of great leaders and world improvers who have plagued humanity since "us and them" were invented.



Are women called to the ministry?

**By Dr. Steven Swisher, Pastor
 Living Word Revival Center**

This is such a controversial subject to many people who attend church. How does God use women in the work of the ministry? Are there any restrictions put upon them concerning the work of God. Let's look and see what the word of God says in order to make sound remarks on this subject.

Are women considered to be believers? Are women gifted from God? Can women be filled with the Holy Spirit? Are Women the tabernacle of God also? Can women prophesy and operate in the gifts of the Spirit? Can women learn the word of God? Can women teach, preach and be a witness of the gospel of Jesus Christ? Are women considered to be disciples? I am more than sure that all of the above questions can be answered yea and amen!

Therefore, the word of God says in Mark 16:16-18, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover." Believers will do all these things and this includes men, women and children who believe. In Act 1:8, the bible says, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." Well, this just says that those who are filled with the Holy Ghost have received power to be witnesses in all the earth. Many of you may already know this because you were saved or healed by a woman's ministry. (I was)

In ACTS 21:8,9, the Bible says, "And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him. And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy." Paul and his company of ministers did meet the daughters of Philip that had the gift of prophecy. To prophesy is also to preach and to declare the word of the Lord. The bible could have said that the daughters of Philip operate in the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The operations of the gifts of God is a way that God made for us to minister to the body of Christ,

thus making Philip's daughters ministers of the faith by bringing forth words of prophecy to others.

What I am seeing just by these few examples is that there is no differences between men and women when it come to the working of the ministry. Women are equipped to pray, prophesy, preach and teach, just like men. We know that the role of the man is to be the spiritual leader of the family, but this role is not to say that women are less spiritual or that women do not have an active role in ministry. That would be foolish especially based upon the word of God and the many women ministers who are now shaking the world with their ministry.

Let's go back to the beginning of God's purposes for man and woman. Sometimes we have to do that in order to keep and protect the divine purposes in place. The bible says in Genesis 1:26- And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth." Maybe you have not noticed before that God said let "them" have dominion or that God blessed "them" and said to "them" to be fruitful and to multiply, etc. Them, included both man and woman to have the God given authority to govern in the earth together. Both Adam and Eve were commanded to operate in dominion in the earth and to subdue it. We would "Neolithic" in our thinking if we were to oppose the ministry calling upon women in work of God.

I would like to invite you to join us for our weekly services at Living Word Revival Center, where you can be delivered and healed by the power of the name of Jesus Christ", in Hayesville, NC, on Sundays at 10 a.m. and on Wed. nites at 7 p.m. "Come taste and see that the Lord is Good!" For information 828-389-3444. Come join us to make a difference at home and on the mission field!

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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.

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